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ABSTRACT

Illegal drug use by adolescents is on the rise. This alarming trend was quantified in this national survey of the attitudes of teens and their parents (1,200 teens and 1,166 parents, including 819 sets of teens and parents from the same households) towards cigarettes, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, LSD, cocaine, heroin, and other illegal drugs. The survey focused on the various situations which may place teenagers at risk for illegal drug use, with the highest point of risk occurring during adolescence. Survey findings indicate that illegal drugs remain the most serious problem teenagers face, in their own estimation, as well as that of their parents. The percentage of teenagers who say it is likely they will try an illegal drug in the future is 22%, twice the 11% found in a survey conducted the previous year. Responses show that by the time they reach age 17, youth are surrounded by illegal drugs in their schools, in their neighborhoods, and among their friends. More than 70% of 15 to 17 year olds, and more than 70% of teenagers' parents believe that drugs are used and sold at the high schools the children attend. Strategies for helping teens resist drugs are highlighted throughout the report. Parents' responsibilities and characteristics of teens least likely to use drugs and are also detailed. (RJM)

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The National Center on
Addiction and Substance Abuse
at Columbia University

ED 410 491

152 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019-3310

phone 212 841 5200
fax 212 956 8020
http://www.casacolumbia.org

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National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents

Conducted by Luntz Research Companies

September 1996

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A FOREWORD, BY JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.

This report by the Luntz Research Companies contains the findings of ***The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse II: Teens and Their Parents***, our second annual effort to assess American attitudes toward all substance abuse. It is the first national survey of the attitudes of teens and their parents (1200 teens, 1166 parents, including 819 sets of teens and parents from the same households) towards cigarettes, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, LSD, cocaine, heroin and other illegal drugs.

We have sought to expand and refine our earlier efforts to identify the factors which place children at greater risk of using drugs, alcohol and cigarettes, and to identify those characteristics that reduce the likelihood that a child will use drugs. We have asked parents many of the same questions we put to their children. We will continue to revise the survey in future years not only to provide a better measure of American attitudes toward all substance abuse, but also to help parents, teachers, clergy, public health practitioners and public policy makers target their resources and energy most effectively in protecting our children.

The most important thing we've learned over CASA's first four years is that the battle against substance abuse is a battle for our children. From everything we know, an individual who makes it through age 21 without using illegal drugs, smoking or abusing alcohol is virtually certain never to do so. This survey underscores that the high school years are likely to be the toughest for American teens in avoiding drug, alcohol and cigarette abuse and addiction. After age 14 there is a dramatic change in how children view alcohol, cigarettes and drugs, and in how their world is filled with such substances.

The most disturbing finding of this survey is the extent to which our children are exposed to illegal drugs. Wherever American teenagers turn -- school, neighborhood, parties, movies, rock concerts, at home where household products double as inhalants -- they will find illegal drugs available. Children rate drugs their number one problem, and the percentage of children who say they are likely to try illegal drugs has doubled from 1995 to 1996.

<u>Every child in America is at risk of using drugs, regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status.</u>

More than 70 percent of 15 to 17 year olds and more than 70 percent of teenagers' parents believe that drugs are used and sold at the high schools the children attend. By age 17, more than two-thirds of our teens can buy marijuana in a few hours or within a day; 42 percent of them find marijuana easier to buy than either beer or cigarettes; almost 60 percent of them know someone who uses heroin, cocaine or acid; 79 percent have friends who smoke cigarettes and 79 percent have friends who are regular drinkers. The issue isn't whether our children are going to be tossed into this sea of drugs; the issue is how well we can teach them to swim.

That's why we have tried to construct from this survey and last year's a set of risk indicators. Imperfect though it is, we hope these indicators will help parents assess just how much at risk their children are.

What comes through clearly is as old as grandmother's admonition that "a stitch in time saves nine:" the best places to reduce risk are the family, the church and the school. Teens with families who get together over the dinner table, in church and at play, teens with parents who assume responsibility for their children's attitudes towards drugs and do not blame society at-large, teens who attend schools

that are drug-free and who have an active religious life -- these are the teens least likely to use drugs. Unfortunately, they are a decreasing minority of our children.

What is most infuriating about the attitudes revealed in this survey is the resignation of so many parents and teens to the present mess. Although almost three-fourths of parents and kids agree that drugs are used and sold at the high schools the kids attend, parents mostly blame someone else for this state, and less than a third of the kids are willing to report a drug dealer in their own school. And almost half of the parents expect their own kids are going to use an illegal drug.

Parental acceptance of the present situation is most troubling among baby boomers who themselves used marijuana in their youth. Their teens (especially those who know of their parents' drug use) are at very high risk of smoking pot themselves. Only 58 percent of parents who smoked marijuana regularly in their youth consider it a "crisis" if their child 15 or younger smokes pot, compared to 83 percent of those parents who never smoked marijuana. Sixty-five percent of baby boomers who used marijuana regularly when younger think their children will use illegal drugs; only 29 percent of those who never used marijuana consider it inevitable that their kids will use illegal drugs.

It's time for parents of American teens to say, "We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take it any more."

It's time for parents to send their kids an unequivocal message that they don't want and don't expect them to try marijuana or any other illegal drugs. There are big differences between the marijuana use of the baby boomers and their children: today's marijuana is much more potent; the children are smoking it at 12 and 13, not 19 and 20 or older; and we know a lot more about its dangers -- marijuana savages short-term memory and the ability to concentrate, and it inhibits emotional development and motor skills, at just the time of life when these are especially important.

Parents and children must demand that their schools be made drug-free and take the actions necessary to get and keep them in that condition. And kids should report drug dealers at their schools, even when those dealers are classmates. Only when our children and their parents are enlisted in this effort can we make our schools drug-free. The good news is that our children seem ready to enlist: more than 80% say that, if their classmates went along, they would make a pledge promising not to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs at school.

This survey has some clear messages for government. Support for drug-free schools is of critical importance. Governors and mayors should step up enforcement of laws against the sale of even small amounts of marijuana. Local authorities can do a much better job of making marijuana less accessible to kids. Such authorities also should make it much harder for kids to get cigarettes -- not only because cigarettes are harmful and addictive in themselves, but because just about every kid who smokes pot learns how to smoke first on nicotine cigarettes. We need local laws that impose on news dealers, convenience store operators, and others who sell cigarettes to children penalties as tough as those in laws prohibiting sale of alcohol to minors -- heavier fines and loss of license to do business. In our survey, kids find it much harder to purchase beer and alcohol than to buy cigarettes and marijuana.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University is the only national organization that houses under one roof all professional disciplines needed to study and combat all types of substance abuse as they affect all aspects of society. CASA's missions are to inform the American people of the economic and social cost of substance abuse and its impact on their lives, to

find out what works in prevention and treatment, and to encourage individuals and institutions to take responsibility to combat substance abuse and addiction.

This survey is more extensive and sophisticated than last year's. We intend to conduct it again next year and annually thereafter. It is an integral part of our mission to inform the American people of the impact of substance abuse on their lives -- and to encourage them, particularly parents and teenagers, to take responsibility to combat such abuse. As this survey reveals, government can help in important ways, particularly in law enforcement targeted at keeping cigarettes, alcohol and drugs away from kids and in supporting drug-free schools and communities. But the key to a drug-free world for our children is in the family -- including the extended family of home, school, church and community.

I want to express CASA's appreciation to Dr. Frank Luntz, Steven Wagner and their colleagues for their hard work and extraordinary insights in analyzing this data. I especially want to thank our distinguished advisory committee of Dr. Richard R. Clayton of the Center for Prevention Research at the University of Kentucky, Andrew Halpert of the Student Coalition Against Tobacco, Dr. Laura Kann of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Everett Carll Ladd, Ph.D., of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, and Dr. Nicholas Zill of Westat, Inc. These experts in polling and survey techniques greatly enriched our effort to track American attitudes toward all substance abuse. We are grateful for their wise and experienced counsel.

Let me also express our appreciation to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which provided the funding for this study and to RWJ Foundation Vice President Robert Hughes who was especially helpful in suggesting ways to improve upon last year's effort.

All these individuals and institutions helped, but CASA and the Luntz Research Companies are alone responsible for the content and analysis of this report.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
New York, NY
September 1996

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

In 1995, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) launched an annual survey on public attitudes toward illegal drugs and substance abuse (see our "National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse", July 1995). This study yielded unique insights into our national crisis of substance abuse. Far and away the most interesting and important results came from a modest subsample of teenagers, 12-17, included in that original survey essentially as an afterthought.

This year, we have continued our investigation into those factors which contribute to a teenager's risk of substance abuse. Our focus on the situation of teenagers derives from the CASA thesis, substantiated by our other research, that addiction to drugs and other sorts of substance abuse typically has its roots in adolescence. Put alternatively, if we can get a kid through age twenty-one free of substance abuse, we are essentially home free.

This year, we have expanded the sample of teens to 1200, and have conducted the first study ever (to our knowledge) of parents and teenagers **in the same household** regarding their attitudes on drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. Of the 1200 teenagers we interviewed, and 1166 parents of teenagers, 1638 interviews were conducted in two-interview households (819 teens, 819 parents). This survey construction allows us to look at the characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors of the parents in our search for those risk factors which make a teen vulnerable to substance abuse.

Here are the "headlines" which emerge from our analysis:

- Drugs Still Number One Problem Facing Teens, Say Teens and Parents

  Illegal drugs remain the most serious problem our teenagers face -- in their own estimation, as well as that of their parents.

- It's Worse than We Realize

  The percentage of teenagers who say it is likely they will try an illegal drug in the future is 22% -- twice the 11% we found last year.

  This CASA study follows by less than a month the release of the 1995 National Household Study of Drug Abuse, which received a lot of attention for its report of the increase in drug use among teens. Our survey does not, like the National Household Study, ask teens directly if they use illegal drugs. But based on responses to other "indicator" questions, we find the extent of the substance abuse problem to be much greater than reported. By the time teenagers reach age 17, they are surrounded by illegal drugs in their schools, in their neighborhoods, and among their friends.

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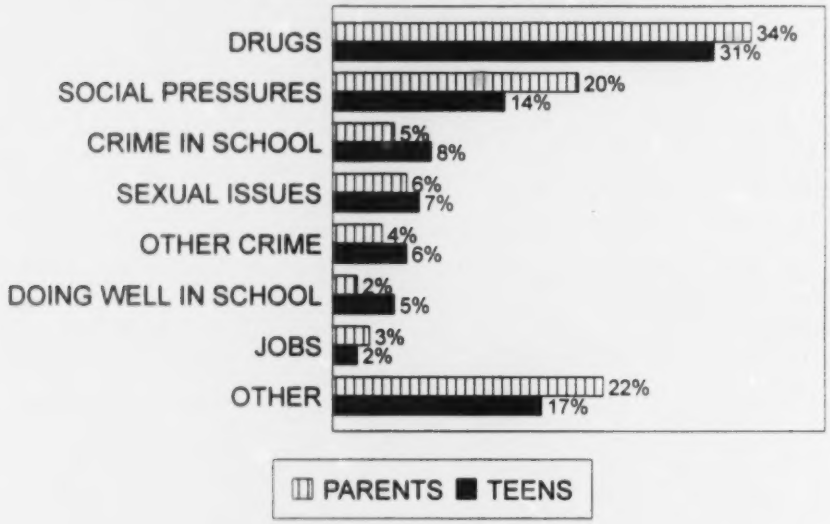
What is the Most Important Problem Facing Teens Today?



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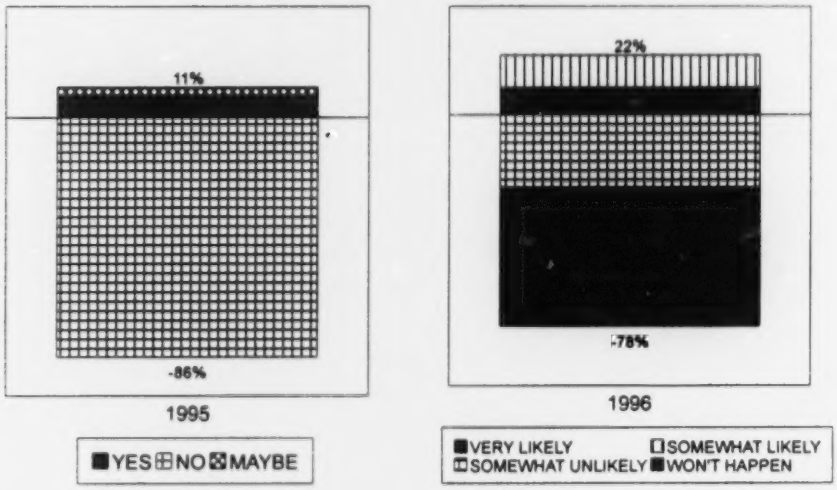
Will You Use Drugs?



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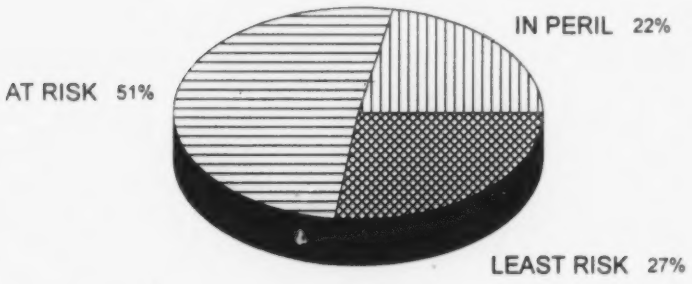
Most Teens at Serious Risk of Substance Abuse



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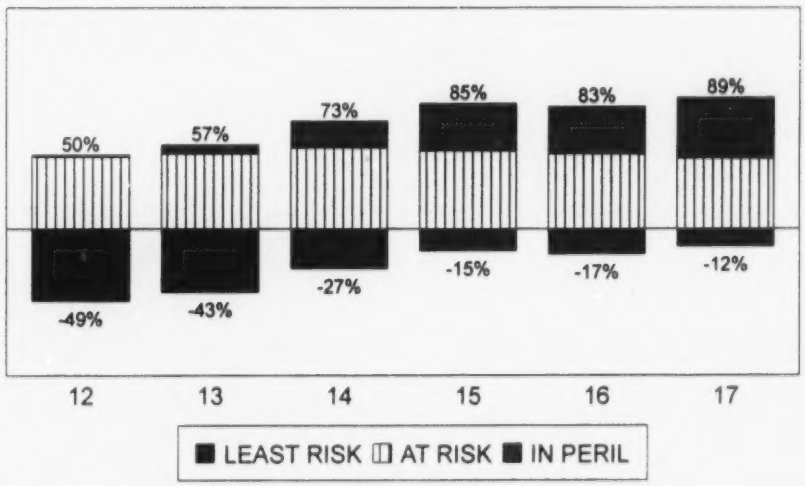
Risk Categories by Age



Consider these facts ...

By the time teenagers reach 17:

⇒ 68% can buy marijuana within a day;

⇒ 62% have friends who use marijuana; 22% will say more than half of their friends use marijuana;

⇒ 58% have been solicited to buy marijuana, 60% of boys, 57% of girls;

⇒ 58% know someone who uses acid, cocaine, or heroin;

⇒ 43% have a friend with a serious drug problem; 28% have more than one such friend;

⇒ 42% find marijuana easier to buy than either beer or cigarettes;

⇒ 79% have friends who smoke;

⇒ 79% have friends who are regular drinkers; 34% know someone with a serious drinking problem (notice the incidence of serious drug problems is greater than serious drinking problems);

⇒ 40% have witnessed the sale of drugs in their neighborhood;

⇒ Less than 1-in-3 attend a drug-free school;

⇒ Only 1-in-3 are willing to report a drug user or seller in their school to school officials.

- Don't Expect a Teen to Escape Adolescence Unscathed

  By the time a teen reaches 17, at best 12% can be categorized as least at risk of substance abuse, according to the CASA index of risk for substance abuse – which is based upon a teen's proximity to illegal drugs and self-described likelihood of using drugs. The threat and temptation of illegal drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol have become near universal experiences for our nation's teens.

- Your Teen's School is Probably not Drug-free

  Most teens do not attend drug-free schools -- indeed, for 1-in-8 teens, their schools are not even physically safe. Yet a plurality of parents blame "society at large" or others for this condition -- instead of taking upon themselves the responsibility of demanding that our schools be made drug-free. Creating authentically drug-free schools -- which our focus group research (and common sense) strongly suggests can only be accomplished by enrolling the students themselves in the project -- is essential to the success of the fight for our kids.

- Parents also Touched by Drugs

  The "drug culture" is not confined to the kids -- a substantial number of parents of teenagers have the direct experience illegal drugs in their daily lives as well:

  ⇒ 46% know someone who uses illegal drugs;

  ⇒ 32% have friends who use marijuana;

  ⇒ 19% have witnessed drugs being sold in their communities;

  ⇒ 49% of these "boomer" parents tried marijuana in their youth; 21% used it regularly.

  Many baby-boom generation parents experimented with drugs, principally marijuana, during the 1960's and 70's. Those parents who used marijuana **& whose teens know they used marijuana** have teens at much higher risk of drug use than other teens. This, we think, illustrates what happens when there is parental ambivalence about the use of marijuana, the absence of a clear message that marijuana use is wrong.

- Age 15 is the Critical Threshold

  As teens age, their proximity to drugs increases and their antipathy to drugs decreases. Drugs become perceived to be more benign, less of a "big deal;" they are ubiquitous, easier to get; there is less fear of using drugs, and such behavior comes to be regarded as "normal."

  These changes occur continuously from ages 12 to 17, increasing the teen's risk of drug and substance abuse the older he or she gets. But there is a clear difference in the data between the pattern of responses of those 14 and under, and those 15 and older. This is the threshold age -- roughly coinciding with the start of high school -- at which all the risk indicators take a jump.

  One implication of this finding is that we have to talk to teens of different ages in different ways. This may seem like an obvious point, but the decision to use illegal drugs will probably be made between ages 15-17, and discouraging drug use at these ages is a very different task from trying to inoculate a 12 year old. Further, there is no reason provided by our data to be sanguine about the power of a broad drug inoculation strategy aimed at younger kids. There is no silver bullet here: fighting drug use is street warfare, requiring constant vigilance and activism.

- Most Parents Know the Score, are Aware When their Kids are at Risk

  Parents do not suffer from naiveté. Quite the opposite, it is impressive how realistic parents are regarding their teens' propensity to use drugs. Fully 46 percent say it is likely their teens will use illegal drugs -- sadly, they appear to be right, based on the CASA index of risk of substance abuse.

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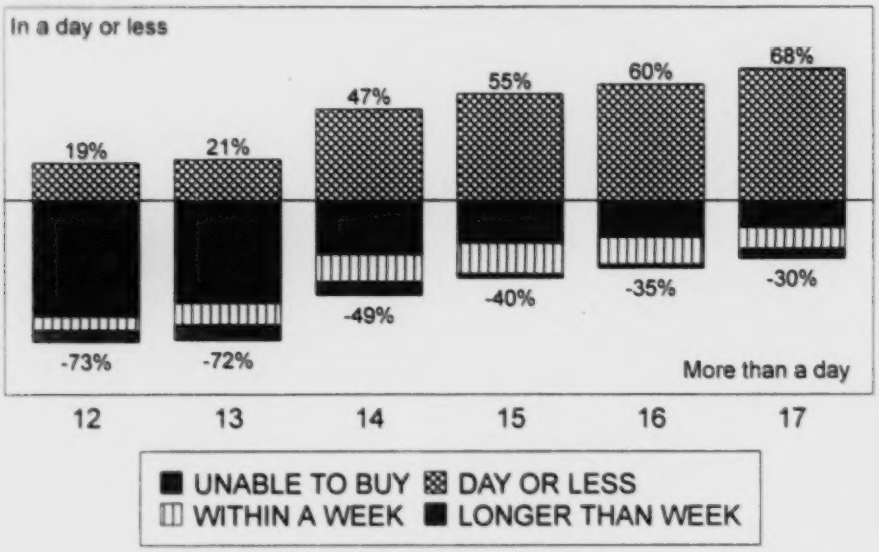
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

How Long to Buy Marijuana?



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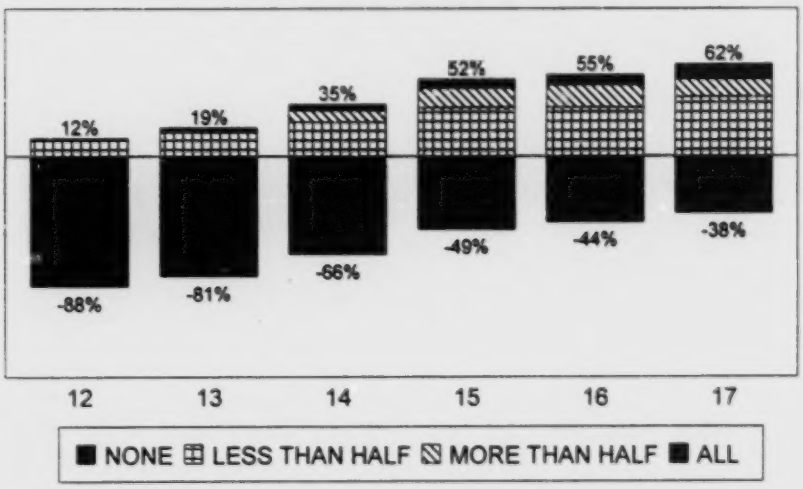
Friends are Marijuana Users



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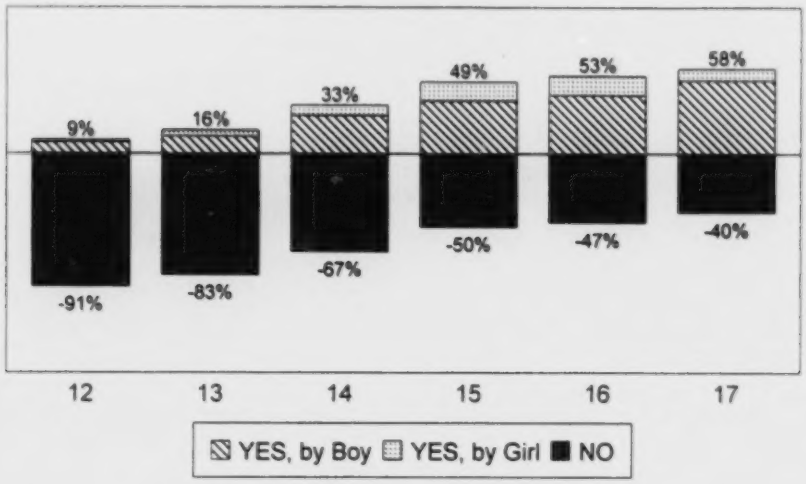
Been Solicited to Buy or Share Marijuana?



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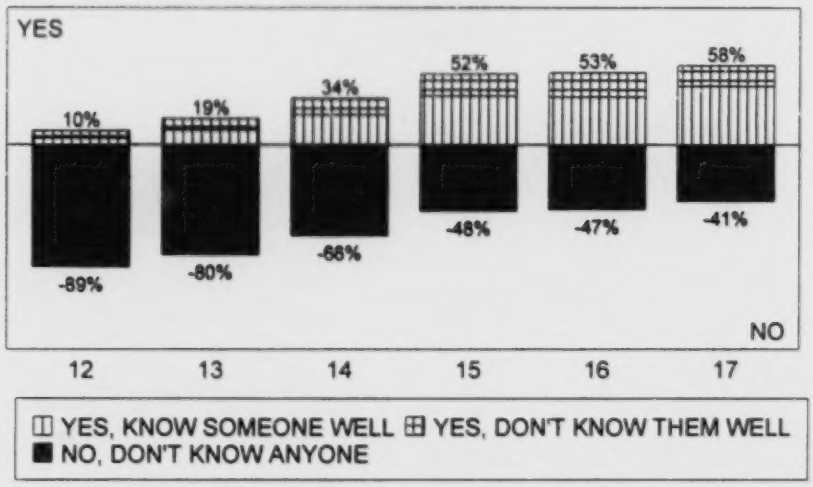
Has Friend Who Used Acid, Cocaine, or Heroin



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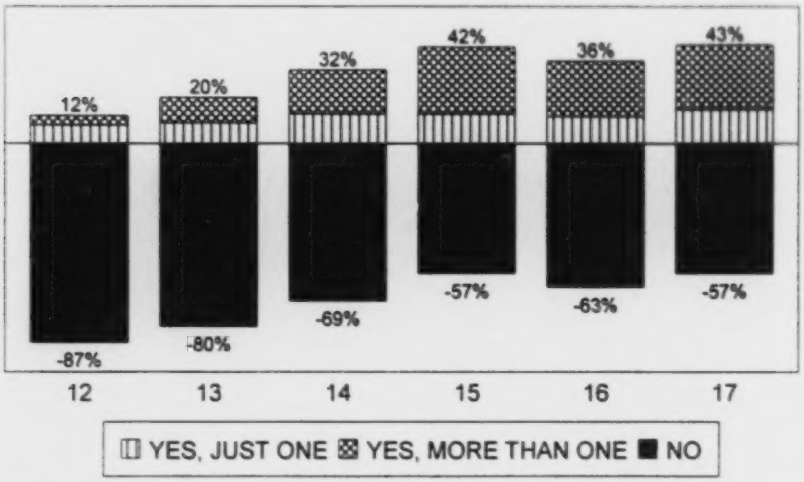
Friends Have Serious Drug Problems



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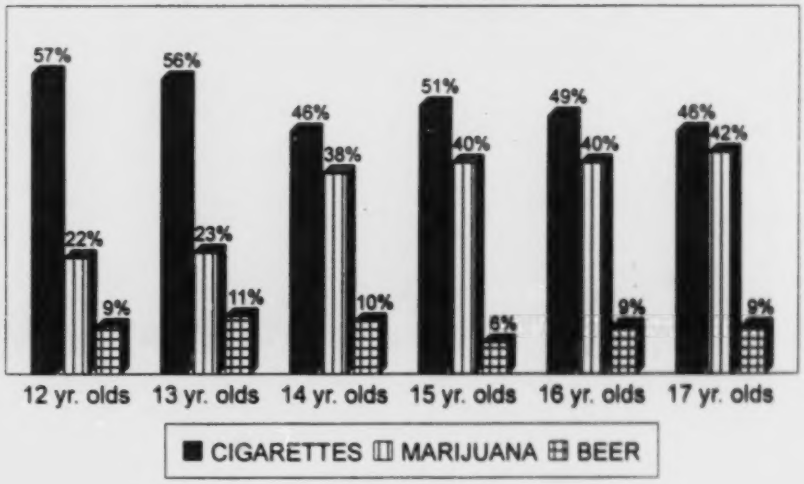
Which is Easiest to Buy?
(Among 3 Choices)



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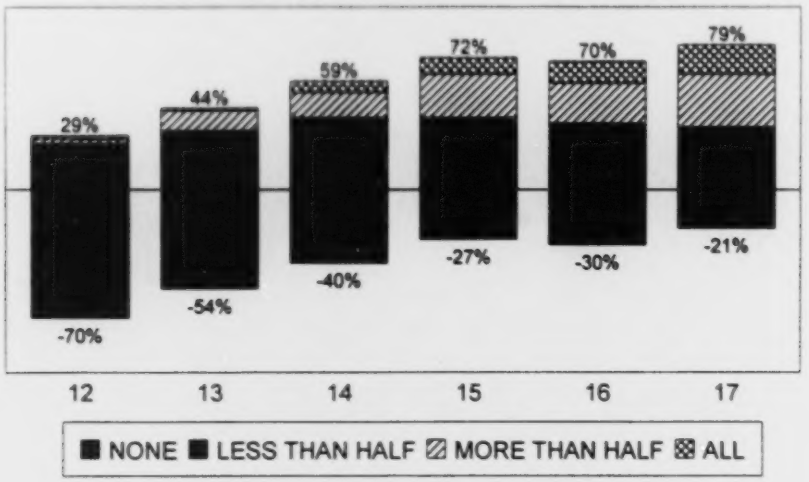
Friends are Regular Smokers



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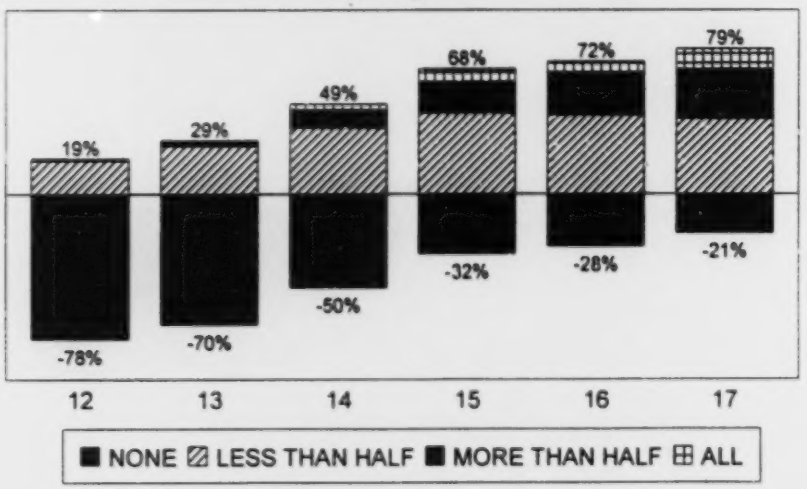
Friends are Regular Drinkers



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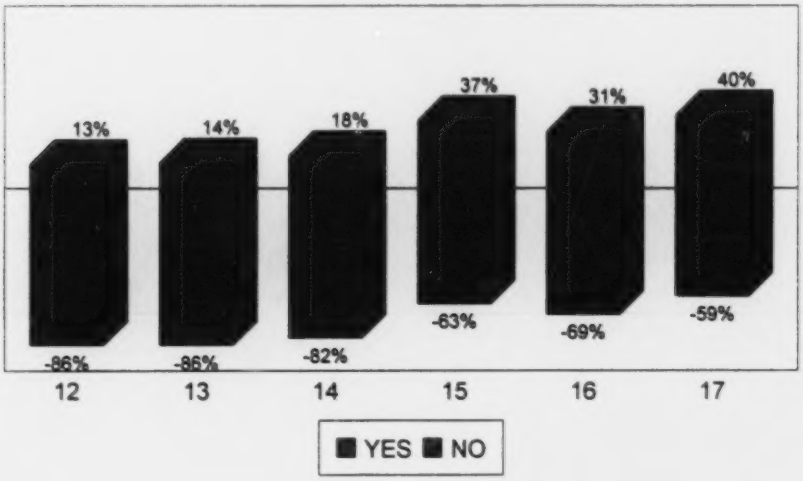
Witnessed the Sale of Illegal Drugs in the Neighborhood



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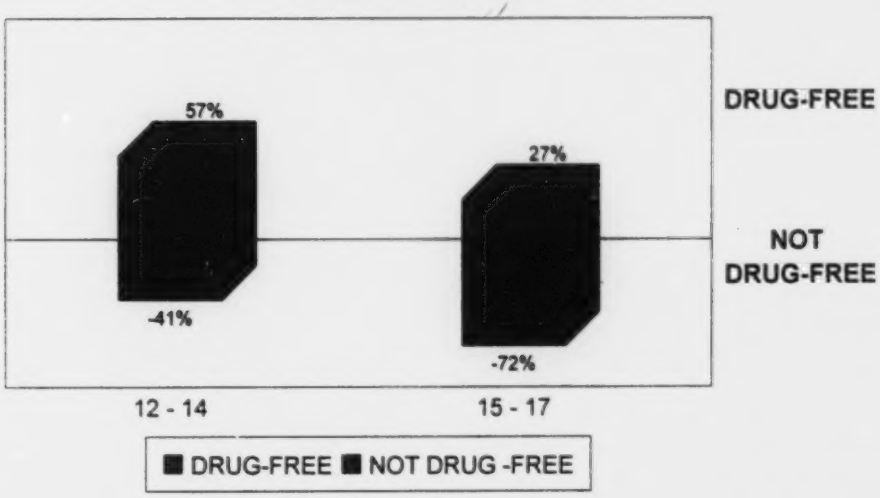
Is Your School Drug-Free?

(Responses by Age)



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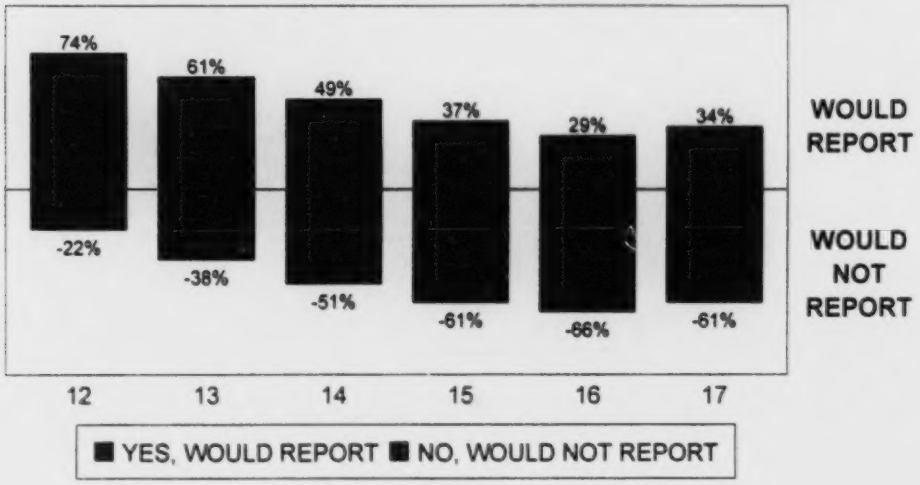
Report Student Selling Illegal Drugs?



- But Many Parents Figuratively Toss in the Towel

  A large number of number of parents (40%) think they have little influence over their adolescent's decision whether to use drugs or not. Many parents blame factors outside the family -- friends of the teen or society at-large -- for a kid's use of illegal drugs, rather than the kid or the parent themselves.

  The least at risk teens are those whose parents say, as an example, that parents are responsible for the schools not being drug-free; the most at-risk teens are those whose parents say "society at-large" is responsible for drugs in school. The extent to which a parent shoulders responsibility for their teen resisting drugs is a key factor in lowering in a teen's substance abuse risk score.

- Controls on the Sale of Beer and Alcohol Work; Cigarette Restrictions are Hollow

  All of our data yells at us: minors access to alcohol and illegal drugs influences the extent of use.

  CASA has set-out the statistical relationships among smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, using marijuana, and serious drug addiction. The path to addiction typically begins with smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol, leads to marijuana, and then on to serious drug use. No step on this path is inevitable, but this "gateway" principle makes clear that the best way to end new addictions among the young is by drawing a line on the abstinence side of marijuana use, underage smoking and drinking.

  Our experience with controls on the sale of alcohol to minors proves we can make it harder for teens to buy cigarettes. For teens of all ages, beer and alcohol are consistently harder to buy than cigarettes. Teens are walking into stores which don't ask for ID's and purchasing smokes over the counter. If we are to take seriously the mission of denying cigarettes to teens, we must get serious about enforcing current restrictions on the sale of cigarettes to minors. It will not be sufficient but it is necessary.

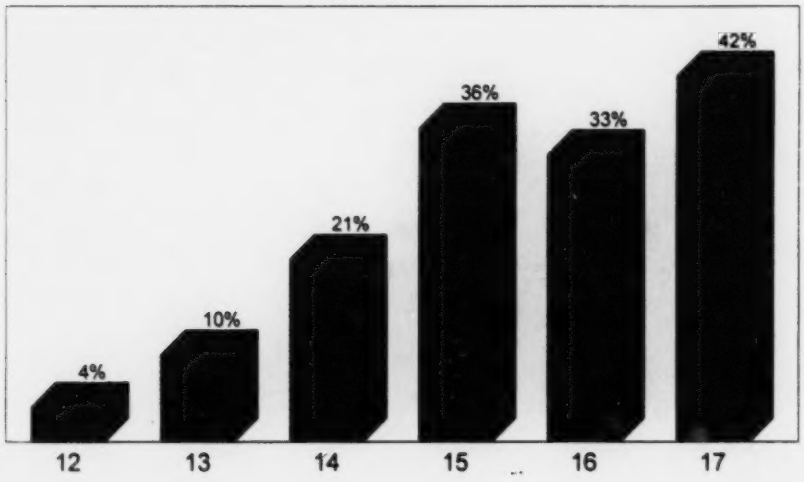
- Household Products Complicate our Anti-drug Task

  Almost every parent (92%) and almost as many teens (87%) are able to name a readily-available household product which teens are using to get high. The list is long and varied, but familiar.

  Even if there were reason to be optimistic about the potential to dramatically reduce the flow of drugs into the United States through an interdiction strategy, going after supply cannot in itself be enough unless we are prepared to interdict the supply of readily-available commercial products that kids inhale to get high. Supply initiatives are essential, but they are no substitute for parental responsibility and fostering a new culture of intolerance toward illegal drug use.

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

Teens Who Know Drug Dealer **AND** Can Buy Marijuana Within a Day



National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

Seven Indicators of Substance Abuse Risk

- Teen Smokes
- Teen's Friends Drink Alcohol
- Teen's Friends Use Marijuana
- Teen has Friend Using 'Hard' Drugs
- Teen Knows Drug Dealer
- Teen Can Buy Marijuana in One Day
- Teen Expects to Use Illegal Drugs in the Future

INTRODUCTION TO THE ANALYSIS

The use of illegal drugs among adolescents is on the rise. This was the message of the recently-released 1995 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse; it is the message of this, the second annual *National Survey of American Attitudes on Drug Abuse II: Teens and their Parents,* commissioned by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA).

There is contained here, in this report, both good news and bad news.

The bad news, of course, is the extent to which our typical 17-year-old son or daughter has to contend with the presence and temptation of substance abuse each and every day of his or her life. It is simply unrealistic for adults to assume a teen about whom they care can pass through adolescence without being confronted with the stark choice of whether or not to use illegal drugs -- repeatedly, on numerous occasions, in a variety of settings.

While most underage drinkers, smokers, and dabblers with marijuana will escape the horror of "hard-core" drug addiction, there is just about **no addict whose addiction did not begin with marijuana, alcohol or cigarettes.** Even if the percentage of casual drug users who succumb to addiction does not rise, the total number of future addicts is going up as the number of first-time users climbs. This is the simple, cruel arithmetic of the drug crisis.

Here's the good news: substance abuse is not a thief who comes in the night; it is not a lightening bolt which striking from the blue at random. It occurs, by and large, to individuals who are in a prior climate of risk. This survey has identified a number of those factors which put a young person at-risk. And in fact, this list is fairly long. Some of the risk factors derive from the parents, some from the friends of the teenager, some from the nature of the teen's home life, most from the attitudes of the teen himself or herself.

It will be difficult for some to accept the extent to which we are masters of our own fate -- to fully embrace the degree of responsibility for our circumstances which has been apportioned to us. One, many parents feel disempowered by the prevalence of drugs in "society at-large" and by a culture which seems to contradict their anti-drug messages. The popular culture glamorizes the use cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs in the estimation of both parents and their teens. Two, there is a natural temptation for parents to assign responsibility for "the drug problem" to others: school officials, police, society at-large, the culture, friends of their kids, and so on and so forth.

Yet this survey has identified ways for concerned adults to confront the threat of illegal drugs. We hope to inform more than alarm, to engender optimism rather than despair.

DRUGS STILL TEENS' NUMBER ONE CONCERN

One of the most stark and startling results of the 1995 CASA survey of teens was that illegal drugs were cited as the most serious problem teens face far above any other concern. This remains the case today, with 31% saying drugs is their biggest concern -- well ahead of the 14% who cite social pressures. This question was open-ended, meaning respondents were not provided with a list of possible responses, and it was asked early in the interview, before any other question raised the issue of illegal drugs.

While responses to this question do not strongly correlate with the teen's risk score -- those who cite drugs as their biggest concern are no less at risk than the average teen -- some interesting patterns do emerge. Teens who cite "doing well in school" as their biggest concern are less at risk than other kids. Those who worry most about jobs and opportunity, or getting along with their parents are most at risk.

Question: What is the most important problem facing people your age -- that is, the thing which concerns you the most? [DO NOT READ OPTIONS]

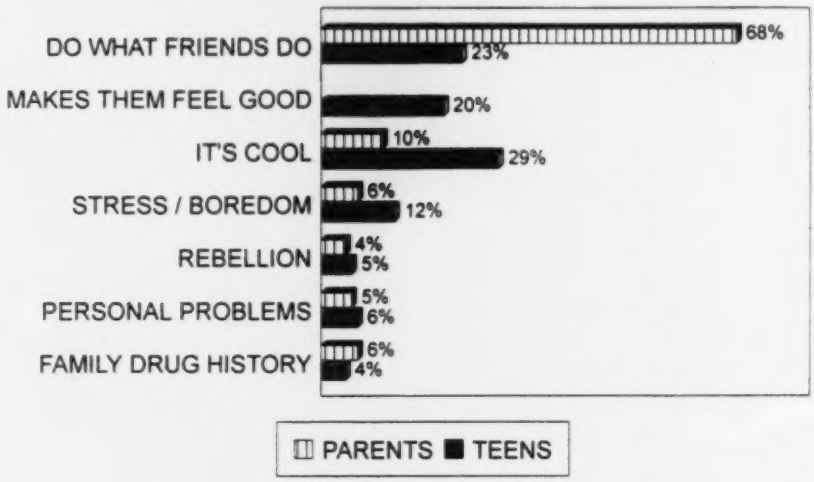
1996	1995	
31%	32%	DRUGS
14%	10%	SOCIAL PRESSURES (POPULARITY, "FITTING-IN")
8%	13%	CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL
7%	5%	SEXUAL ISSUES
6%	5%	OTHER CRIME AND VIOLENCE
5%	6%	DOING WELL IN SCHOOL
2%	4%	JOBS/ OPPORTUNITY
2%	*	GETTING ALONG WITH PARENTS/OTHER PROBLEMS AT HOME
2%	5%	GETTING INTO COLLEGE
13%	11%	OTHER
11%	11%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

And the parents say ...

34%	DRUGS
20%	SOCIAL PRESSURES (POPULARITY, "FITTING-IN")
5%	CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL
6%	SEXUAL ISSUES
4%	OTHER CRIME AND VIOLENCE
2%	DOING WELL IN SCHOOL
3%	JOBS/ OPPORTUNITY
2%	GETTING ALONG WITH PARENTS/OTHER PROBLEMS AT HOME
2%	GETTING INTO COLLEGE
20%	OTHER
3%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

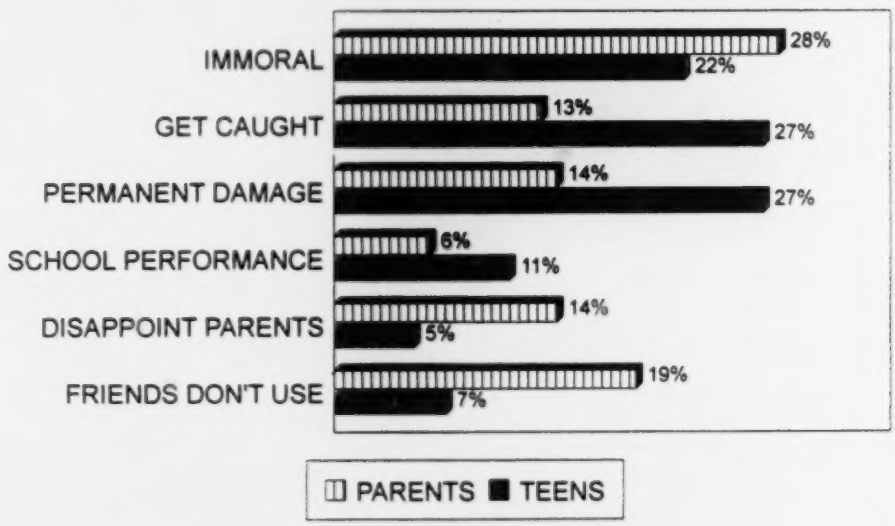
National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

Main Reason Kids Start Using Drugs



National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

Main Reason Teenagers Do Not Use Drugs



WHO IS AT-RISK, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AT-RISK?

This survey continues and refines the analytic approach begun with the 1995 CASA survey project. This survey is not intended to be an epidemiological study of drug use in America. We simply do not have confidence enough in the truthfulness of responses to questions asked over the telephone which constitute admissions of illegal activity. As a small example of this, our survey significantly underreports the incidence of cigarette smoking among 17 year olds, compared with the *Monitoring the Future Survey* by the University of Michigan (54% in ours, 64% for 12th graders in theirs). Because *Monitoring the Future* is conducted in-person in schools, rather than in the home where parents may be present, it routinely finds higher incidences of substance abuse than at-home interview surveys. We see no value in reporting results (concerning actual drug use) in which we don't have complete confidence.

So instead of relying on direct questions such as, "do you smoke marijuana, snort coke, or shoot heroin," we ask a series of questions about the presence of drugs in the teen's life. The fundamental premise of our research is that if drugs or substance abuse are very much a part of a teen's life experience -- in particular, if his or her friends are engaged in various forms of substance abuse (the term includes alcohol and tobacco), and the teen knows how to obtain illegal drugs -- then the teen is at risk of substance abuse. This line of questioning is augmented by several additional questions which are more direct.

THE SEVEN CASA INDICATORS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISK (1996)

Do you smoke cigarettes? (question 13)

How many of your friends drink alcohol? (question 21)

How many of your friends use marijuana? (question 30)

Do you know someone who uses harder drugs? (question 38)

Do you know anyone who sells illegal drugs? (question 46)

How long would it take you to buy marijuana? (question 47)

How likely is it you will try illegal drugs in the future? (question 72)

(For the distribution of responses to these questions, refer either to the aggregate results at the end of this report, or the comparison with last year's results in a following section.)

As in the 1995 analysis, these variables were subjected to a "factor analysis," a statistical routine which both assesses whether this set of variables can legitimately be combined into a single measure, and then assigns a score to each respondent based on their responses to all of the questions. Our factor analysis confirmed that the seven questions we selected as "risk indicators" do indeed seem to measure a common underlying construct; the results of the scoring appear as a graph on a previous page.

For ease of presentation, we have collapsed the risk score into three risk categories: least at-risk, at-risk, and in-peril. The range of risk scores assigned to each category was made after analyzing the distribution of the risk scores. Roughly, those who exhibited none or only one risk indicator (of 7) were considered "least at-risk", those testing positive on 3, 4, or 5 risk indicators were counted "at-risk," and those with 6 or 7 indicators were called "in-peril." [1]

We do not want to imply that any teen is "safe" from drugs in the sense of being immune, but rather that some kids are "least at-risk" in that they haven't yet been exposed to drugs or that they and their parents have already taken steps to protect the teen. By our definition, we find in 1996 that only 27 percent of teens, 12-17, can currently be considered least at-risk of substance abuse. Among 12 year olds, 49 percent are least at-risk; among 17 year olds, just 12 percent are least at-risk. Half of teens are moderately "at-risk," which means there is at least an exposure to substance abuse in their lives. And 22 percent are "in-peril" of drug use, based on a pervasive exposure to substance abuse. Among 17 year olds, an enormous 41 percent are in-peril of drug use.

Once the teenagers were scored for risk of substance abuse, this score was correlated with every other variable in the teen survey and the parent survey in order to reveal the most important "risk factors." Based on this correlation between questions and the risk score, the list of the most important risk factors for substance abuse was developed. In fact, two lists were developed, one for parents, one for the teens themselves.[2]

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[1] Actually, least at-risk was defined as 0.8 above the mean, and in-peril 0.8 below the mean, on a variable (risk score, a continuous variable) with a standard deviation of 1. These ranges were selected after examining the mean risk score of several key groups.

[2] The teen's risk score which resulted from a factor analysis of the teen's responses to a number of questions is a continuous variable, meaning that individual cases (teenagers) could receive a score of any number within the range of +1.23 (least at-risk) to -3.04 (most at-risk). The coefficient of correlation best suited to the analysis of such a continuous dependent variable (that is, the effect being explained) is eta, which ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 is a "perfect" correlation. Eta was the correlation coefficient used to rank order the risk factors.

THE FACTORS WHICH INCREASE TEENAGE RISK

Those risk factors most strongly linked to the risk score are laid-out in the following box. They are ranked ordered by the strength of their correlation with the risk score (the actual coefficients for all significantly correlated variables appear as an appendix).

There are many conclusions which leap out from these tables, among them:

- There are four very general categories of risk factors:

    1. Proximity to illegal drugs -- how visible and immediate drug use is to a teen;

    2. Attitudes toward illegal drugs -- whether drugs are seen as benign or harmful;

    3. Standards of conduct -- evidence of rules of behavior in the teen's life, especially those which would hold drug use to be morally wrong; and,

    4. Family life -- characteristics of the teen's family.

- Of these categories of risk factors, proximity to drugs is far and away the most influential. It is also the most thoroughly measured by our survey questions.

- The parental risk factors -- characteristics and responses of the parent -- have a more modest correlation with the teen's risk score than the risk factors of the teen himself/herself. We know by common sense that parents have a profound impact on a teen's life, yet often this influence is indirect, affecting the orientations of the teen which in turn affect the teen's propensity to use illegal drugs, rather than affecting the propensity to use illegal drugs in a very direct way.

- But there are exceptions to that pattern: the extent of involvement of the parent in a teen's life and the activism of the parent in confronting the risk of substance abuse are first-order variables in setting a teen's risk score.

THE PARENTAL RISK FACTORS

(attributes and attitudes of the parent and the household which increase the risk of substance abuse)

1. THERE IS NO SPECIFIED CURFEW FOR THE TEEN

The fact of a curfew indicates parental attention to the teen's comings and goings. It also implies a household with standards of behavior. It is the highest scoring risk factor over which a parent has direct control (13% of parents report their teens do not have a curfew; 3% don't know if their teens have a curfew).

2. THE PARENT DISAPPROVES OF THE TEEN'S FRIENDS

We have made the point repeatedly here that parents are not naive; this is an excellent example. If a parent does not like a teen's friends, **THEY ARE PROBABLY RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED:** the teen is, according to our data, hanging with substance abusers and is at high risk himself or herself. The question, then, is what will the parent do to act on their apprehensions (13% of parents disapprove of their teen's friends).

3. THE PARENT EXPECTS THEIR TEEN WILL TRY DRUGS

Again, if a parent thinks their kid will try illegal drugs, they are probably right. Most parents know, at some level, when their kids are at risk -- the issue is whether they will they act on their intuitions in a purposeful manner to reduce their teen's risk of drug use, rather than hide behind a vale of non-responsibility and inefficacy (46% of parents expect their teen to try illegal drugs).

4. THE TEEN'S FAMILY RARELY HAS DINNER TOGETHER

It probably isn't just the fact of sitting down to dinner as a family that reduces drug-use risk, but what the fact of having dinner together says about the character of the family environment. In any case, the pattern is clear: for each additional dinner a family has together in a typical week, the teen's risk score declines (29% of parents say their family has dinner together fewer than four nights a week).

5. THE PARENT DOES NOT ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES, AND DOES NOT TAKE THE TEEN WITH THEM IF THEY DO

It's not simply the act of going to church or synagogue several times a month, it's the fact of the kind of code of conduct being in evidence in the household which emerges from religious commitment, and religion being a factor in the teen's moral formation (27% of parents do not attend religious services in a typical month). Corroborating this finding is the fact that **teens who say drug abstinence by their peers occurs because drug use is morally wrong are less at risk than teens who give other responses to that question**. Which raises a side point: parents will be more effective as advocates of drug abstinence if they can say, with credibility, that drug use is morally flawed behavior.

6. THE PARENT SMOKED MARIJUANA AND THE TEEN KNOWS

Many of today's parents of teenagers are themselves children of the sixties and seventies. Nearly half admitted to us they had tried marijuana or used it regularly. Yet this finding struck us initially as counter-intuitive in that we assumed parents who were hiding their youthful dalliances would have teens at greater risk than parents who admitted their drug "experimentation" forthrightly. Not so: for a teen to know (correctly) that their parent used drugs contributes substantially to their own risk score.

Why? It appears that those parents may be conveying the message that drugs generally and marijuana specifically are benign. Plus, to concede prior use certainly can undercut the claim drug use is morally wrong. As an illustration of how prior marijuana use affects parents' perceptions of marijuana, 83% of parents who did not smoke in their youth say they would regard the use of marijuana by their teen as a "crisis," but only 58% of past regular pot users would be similarly alarmed.

7. THE PARENT REALLY THINKS THAT MARIJUANA IS BENIGN

If a parent does not regard marijuana use as a big deal, they cannot or will not persuade their teenagers that it is a big deal. The view of marijuana as benign emerges from questions concerning its effect on health and performance.

8. THE PARENT FEELS POWERLESS, BLAMES DRUG USE ON OTHERS; DOES NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY

A parent must believe that he or she can make a difference. Parents who feel they have little influence over their teen's decision regarding the use of illegal drugs are probably right; it's a self-fulfilling prophesy. Parents who say parents are to blame for drug-infested schools have less at risk kids. Activism, diligence, certitude, confidence -- these are the characteristics a parent needs to be successful in keeping the drug culture at bay. But most of all, they must embrace responsibility for keeping their teens off of drugs in the first place.

As significant as the parent is to whether a teen graduates from high school in a drug-free state, the characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors of the teenager himself/herself are much more significant in anticipating the risk of substance abuse.

THE TEEN RISK FACTORS

(attributes and attitudes of the teenager which increase substance abuse risk)

1. THE TEEN HAS BEEN SOLICITED TO USE/BUY DRUGS

The most important risk factors of substance abuse concern the teen's proximity to drug use. Solicitation is a function of who the teen hangs-out with and probably speaks to a predisposition to try drugs. But while it is the single most significant factor, it is not different in kind from a dozen or more similar factors: whether friends of the teen smoke, whether the teen knows someone who has tried hard drugs, whether the teen has a friend with a drinking problem or a drug problem. All of these "proximity to substance abuse" variables correlate highly with risk score.

We consider the decision of whether or not to use illegal drugs as one each teen has to make for themselves -- it is a cop-out for a teen to blame friends for the fact he or she uses drugs or abuses other substances. But, that having been posited, it does make a difference what quality of environment the teen spends his or her time in.

An anecdote: in our inner-city Chicago focus groups with teens, several kids told us they have very little opportunity to spend time out and about in the neighborhood surrounding their home. Their parents have them come inside as soon as they return from school, out of a fear for their safety, both from violence and from drugs. This is one parental strategy in an extreme situation for dealing with proximity. And it sure beats passivity.

2. MARIJUANA IS BENIGN

Youth who believe that the use of marijuana is no big deal, that it has neither health, nor safety, nor moral, nor performance implications, are in trouble.

Empirically, marijuana use impairs performance, is dangerous when used behind the wheel, has negative health implications, and may lead to other drug use. But many older teenagers dismiss these threats, and the view that marijuana use is cost- free -- rare among 12 year olds, common among 17 year olds -- is a necessary if not sufficient condition for a high risk of use. The greater the exposure to marijuana and other drugs, the more likely is this perception (89% of 12 year olds say marijuana makes "getting into trouble more likely," versus 64% of 17 year olds.

3. TEEN WOULD NOT REPORT DRUG DEALER OR USER TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS

This attitude is more symptomatic than causal, and is related to the view marijuana is physically benign. As marijuana becomes more prevalent in the school environment, resistance to it wanes. The virtues of attending a drug-free school are forgotten when the school is not drug-free, so students give-up trying to fight the presence of drugs – by, for example, reporting sellers and users. The more common marijuana and other drugs are in school, the more these are taken for granted. The more these are taken for granted -- and especially, the more drugs are perceived to be tolerated by school officials -- the weaker is the moral argument that there is something fundamentally wrong with drug use. As this breaks down, so too will a student's own resistance to use.

4. KIDS KNOW PARENTS SMOKED MARIJUANA

If a teen knows their parent smoked marijuana, we know that a higher risk of drug use results. We assume it results from the breakdown of the moral argument against drug use ("how can marijuana be morally wrong if my parents did it?").

But prior parental drug use is not completely deterministic -- there are some kids with low risk scores whose parents were marijuana users in the late '60s and 1970's. Perhaps more important than just the fact of a teen knowing their parent used marijuana is the attitude of the parent toward drug use. If prior parental use results in moral ambiguity about drug use, if parents are unable or unwilling to tell their kids smoking pot is wrong, then surely this silence is injurious. But if they tell their kid they made a mistake, the effect of prior use may be entirely mitigated, may perhaps even be a positive factor.

5. MARIJUANA IS EASY TO BUY

Of course the 45% of teens who could buy marijuana within a day have a high risk score. This factor is partially another proximity measure, and as we have previous discussed, we holds that proximity breeds use. Now we may not be able to eliminate the supply of marijuana, but we certainly can reduce the ease of its purchase -- especially by eliminating its availability on the grounds of our nation's high schools and intermediate schools, during the school day.

6. SEX UNDER 18 IS OKAY

This factor is interesting because it is the most important one having nothing directly to do with drugs. The 25% who think it is okay for teens to have sex under the age of 18 (rising to 36% of 17 year olds) are at greater risk of substance abuse because, we surmise, they have a more permissive standard of personal behavior all around. In many other ways the message has emerged from this data that those teens who apply a moral critique to the use of drugs are at much lower risk than those who do not regard the use of drugs to have a moral implication; whether a teen has a moral code in the area of sexual activity seems to be a surrogate question for this sort of moral sensitivity.

7. AGE

The older the teen gets, the greater the risk of drug use. This occurs because their exposure to drugs increases, their apprehensions toward drugs decrease, availability increases.

8. THE TEEN HAS NO CURFEW

Having a curfew **which the teen recognizes** is important to lowering risk. This means a curfew, we suppose, which is actually enforced (63% of teens think they have a curfew, versus 84% of parents who think their teen has a curfew).

9. TEEN DOES NOT ATTEND A DRUG-FREE SCHOOL

According to our teen sample, the vast majority of high schools in America are not drug-free. The implications of drug-infestation are numerous: it means kids are exposed to drugs (have proximity); it means school officials (the local authority figures) are seen to be indifferent to the presence of drugs; it means drugs can be purchased from a vendor closer than the nearest convenience store which sells cigarettes to minors (42% of 17 year olds say marijuana is easier to buy than either cigarettes or beer).

10. NO DINNERS AS A FAMILY IN A TYPICAL WEEK

As a practical matter, the only safe haven from drugs a 15-17 year old has is the family home. Involvement of the parent in the life of the teenager and having a robust family life are very significant antidotes to the drug culture. This means having interaction as a family, between children and parents. As modest as having dinner together may seem, it is very significant as a reduction of teen risk (37% of teens dine as a family 6 or 7 times a week).

11. THE TEEN GETS POOR GRADES

The pursuit of accomplishment, in both academics and sports, is inconsistent with drug use. For a student who has a vision of their future, who seeks to maximize their potential, the best argument against drug use might simply be that it diminishes accomplishment. Or perhaps, it's just that students who keep busy keep out of trouble.

12. PARENT HAS NO IDEA WHAT THE TEEN DOES ON WEEKENDS

If a teenager believes that their parent knows what they do most weekends, they are less at risk than their more long-leashed colleagues. On numerous other dimensions, the importance of parental involvement in the life of the teen has been manifest. There is that aspect of this risk factor, plus the additional aspect of the teen knowing that there are standards of conduct which the parent is sufficiently concerned about to monitor (88% of teens think their parent knows what they do most weekends).

13. TEEN DOES NOT ATTEND CHURCH

While it is important that the parents of a teen go to church or religious service; it is even more important that the teen be religiously active.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TEENS LEAST LIKELY TO USE DRUGS

In the 1995 survey we identified several characteristics of teenagers which are associated with a lower risk of drug use. These were:

Optimism about one's personal future;
An active religious life;
Quality of academic performance;
Extent of parental involvement in the teen's life; and,
Awareness one will be forced to choose whether or not to use drugs.

This year, we have been able to identify several additional characteristics of the "less at risk" teen, while also finding that "hope for the future," may not be as important as we thought (in part due to the fact that optimism has not waned as substance abuse has grown). Some of the new characteristics we have identified are:

DOING WELL IN SCHOOL IS TEEN'S BIGGEST CONCERN
(consistent with last year)

TEEN HAS NO FRIENDS WHO SMOKE, DRINK, OR USE MARIJUANA
(also a part of last year's analysis)

TEEN ATTENDS DRUG-FREE SCHOOL
(a very important consideration)

TEEN WOULD REPORT DRUG USER/SELLER

TEEN IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

TEEN HAS DINNER WITH FAMILY 6 OR 7 TIMES A WEEK

PARENTS DID NOT SMOKE MARIJUANA AS YOUTH
(Parents who smoked marijuana ought to be especially conscious of the messages they are conveying regarding illegal drugs)

PARENTS DON'T DRINK
(not that parents should stop drinking, but be conscious of the message they are conveying regarding the responsible consumption of alcohol)

TEEN SAYS BIGGEST REASON NOT TO USE DRUGS IS THEY'RE MORALLY WRONG

PARENTS WHO DISAGREE STRONGLY THAT THEY HAVE NO INFLUENCE ON TEEN

PARENTS WHO SAY PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL NOT BEING DRUG-FREE

COMPARING 1996 TO 1995 ...

In the 1995 survey, we conducted just 400 interviews among 12-17 year olds, a small sample for a national survey (margin of sampling error: ±4.9%). This year, with 1200 interviews among teens, the results have greater reliability. But even with this consideration in mind, we are astounded at the increase in the number of teens who say they are likely to try illegal drugs in the future: 22% this year versus 11% last year.

Compared with last year, more teens are at greater risk. The number of current smokers has held constant, and both drinking (alcohol) and marijuana use among friends are down. But exposure to harder drugs is up substantially – 39% say they know someone who uses acid, cocaine, or heroin versus 17% last year -- as is the extent to which teens "speculate" they will use illegal drugs in the future – in 1996, 51% report they will never use illegal drugs, while in 1995 that figure was 86%. In 1995, 30% scored positively on no risk indicators (meaning they were not found to be at risk on any variable), and in 1996, 22% scored a 0 on those same (roughly) five questions.

Question: Do you currently smoke, meaning one or more cigarettes a day? [IF YES] Roughly how many cigarettes or packs a day do you smoke? [IF NO] Have you ever smoked? [In 1995, we did not ask about the frequency of smoking].

1996	1995	
1%		LESS THAN ONE CIGARETTE PER DAY
4%		1- 5 CIGARETTES PER DAY
3%		1/2 PACK PER DAY
2%		1 PACK PER DAY
1%		1 1/2 PACKS PER DAY
*		2 OR MORE PACKS PER DAY
11%	8%	**subtotal, current smoker**
27%	12%	NOT CURRENT SMOKER, BUT SMOKED IN PAST
61%	80%	NOT CURRENT SMOKER, NEVER SMOKED
*	*	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

Question: Thinking now about your own close circle of friends, how many of them currently drink beer or other alcoholic drinks pretty regularly, like most weekends -- none, less than half, more than half, all of them?

1996	1995	
46%	37%	NONE
35%	34%	LESS THAN HALF
13%	19%	MORE THAN HALF
5%	10%	ALL OF THEM
1%	*	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE [DO NOT READ]

Question: Thinking now about your own close circle of friends, how many of them currently use marijuana -- none, less than half, more than half, all of them?

1996	1995	
61%	54%	NONE
26%	32%	LESS THAN HALF
9%	9%	MORE THAN HALF
5%	5%	ALL OF THEM
*	1%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE [DO NOT READ]

Question: Do you know a friend or classmate who has used harder drugs like acid, cocaine, or heroin? [IF YES] Do you know this person fairly well, or not too well? [The 1995 question did not distinguish between knowing someone well or not.]

1996	1995	
26%		YES, KNOW SOMEONE FAIRLY WELL
13%		YES, KNOW SOMEONE NOT WELL
39%	17%	**subtotal, know user**
61%	82%	NO
1%	1%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

Question: And, for my final question, how likely do you think it is that at some point in the future you will try an illegal drug: is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or will it absolutely never happen? [In 1995, this was a yes/no question, with "maybe" accepted as a volunteered response].

1996	1995	
10%		VERY LIKELY
12%		SOMEWHAT LIKELY
	8%	[YES]
27%		NOT VERY LIKELY
	3%	[MAYBE]
51%	86%	NEVER HAPPEN [NO]
*		DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

PARENTS KNOW THE SCORE

On one level, it is incredible that 46% of parents think their teenager will try illegal drugs. This is a finding to which it would be easy to assign a negative interpretation: defeatism, resignation, impotence. But perhaps parents are simply being realistic. After all, the kids that parents say are going to try illegal drugs are at much greater risk of doing just that, according to the CASA risk index. Here are other examples of parental awareness:

⇒ Actually, 37% of those teens whose parents said they will try drugs say, for themselves, "no way." On the other hand, 14% of teens whose parent say they won't try drugs say it is likely they will. So overall, parents are more pessimistic or "realistic" than their teens.

⇒ In 27% of "households" parents and teens agree on the time required by the teen to buy marijuana. In 14%, parents overestimate how long it would take their teens to procure; in 51% of households, parents underestimate the time their teens say is required. Eight percent "don't know." Here again, parents are exhibiting pessimism about their teens' drug savviness.

⇒ Parents are more likely than teens to say marijuana is easiest for teens to buy than either cigarettes or beer. Parents more likely to say the teen's school is not drug-free than are teens.

⇒ Only 58 percent of parents and teens agree they have had a discussion about the dangers of illegal drugs. Fully 94 percent of parents claim to have had that discussion, yet 39% of their teens missed it.

⇒ In 27% of households, the parent and teen agree on the number of dinners they eat together. In 41%, parents say dinners are more frequent; in 32% teens say dinners are more frequent.

⇒ Only 6% of teens whose parents say the teen don't smoke tell us in fact they do. 53% of teens whose parents say they do smoke tell us they don't. Parents are less adept at estimating their teen's drinking habits: one-third of teens whose parents think they don't drink do in fact imbibe.

⇒ 87% of teens and parents agree: the parents know what the kids are doing most weekends. But on the curfew, in 26% of our households the teen says they do not have a curfew, while the parent says they do. 38% of parents and teens agree on the time of the curfew.

The flip side – teens' impressions of the parents' behavior:

⇒ 45% of kids and parents agree on the extent of the parent's drinking. 37% of kids have a higher estimate than the parent, 18% of teens underestimate their parents' drinking.

⇒ In 21% of households, the parent used marijuana in the past and the teenager knows. In 42%, the parent did not use and the kids know that. In 25%, the parents used marijuana but their teens don't know it. In 10% of households, the parent did not use marijuana but the teen says they did.

GROWING-UP IN AMERICA: A PORTRAIT

As teenagers progress from age 12 and 6th or 7th grade through age 17 and senior year of high school, there are many changes in their attitudes on drugs and other subjects -- and changes in their patterns of behavior. A few of the most significant of these changes which we detected in our survey are listed below.

QUESTION	12 YR. OL	17 YR. OLI	NET DIFFERENC
Is it OK to have sex before 18? (% saying yes)	9%	36%	+27
I have a specific goal for the future.	68%	82%	+14
I participate in a sport, which I really care abou	66%	47%	-19
I get bored on most weekends.	49%	37%	-12
I have dinner with my family 6 or 7 nights per week.	52%	24%	-28
My parents know what I do on weekends.	91%	82%	-9
I have a curfew of 10:00 pm or earlier.	56%	6%	-50
My curfew is after 10:00 pm.	10%	58%	+48
Religion is fairly/very important to me.	82%	74%	-8
I attend religious services at least weekly.	48%	35%	-13
I get A's and B's in school.	67%	50%	-17
More than half of my friends smoke.	2%	29%	+27
I have never smoked.	84%	47%	-37
I know someone with a drinking problem.	9%	34%	+25
None of my friends are regular drinkers.	78%	21%	-57
I never drink.	83%	42%	-41
Drugs are a teen's biggest problem.	29%	32%	+3
I know someone who uses marijuana.	40%	62%	+22
I know someone with a serious problem with illegal drugs.	12%	43%	+31
I have witnessed the sale of illegal drugs in my neighborhood.	13%	40%	+27
I have been pressured to use illegal drugs.	6%	21%	+15
I have been pressured to drink beer/alcohol.	10%	29%	+19
I know someone fairly well who has used acid, cocaine, or heroin.	5%	43%	+38
My school is drug-free.	70%	31%	-39
I would report someone using illegal drugs at school.	76%	32%	-44
I would report someone selling illegal drugs at school.	74%	34%	-40
I know someone who sells illegal drugs.	8%	43%	+35
I can buy marijuana within a day.	19%	68%	+49
It is likely I will use illegal drugs.	12%	25%	+13

"DRUG FREE SCHOOLS:" AN OXYMORON

Fifty-six percent of our nation's teens attend schools which are not drug-free -- meaning they have observed other students to "keep drugs, use drugs, or sell drugs on school grounds." By the time teens reach ages 15-17, the percent who say they attend schools where illegal drugs are in evidence and used in evidence climbs to 72 percent. Eleven percent of our teens -- one out of ten -- attend schools which are, in their estimation, neither safe nor drug-free

Little wonder that drug use among teens -- as reported in the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse -- is on the rise. Any parent can tell you how quickly a flu virus sweeps through a classroom. If an elementary school student is found to have head lice, most schools will send the student home and notify the other parents to be on-the-guard. Yet we seem to harbor the illusion that the disease of illegal drug use is not contagious.

On this, the advent of another school year, most students of high school age are preparing to return to daily environments rife with illegal drugs. Sadly, "drug free school" has become a functional oxymoron. And among teens who attend schools which are not drug free, the risk of substance abuse more than doubles: when the school is drug free, one student in ten knows a drug dealer and can buy marijuana within a day; when the school is not drug free, 1-in-3 knows a drug dealer and can buy marijuana in a day. The visible presence of drugs in a school is one of the most significant factors contributing to a risk of substance abuse.

Among students who do not have the benefit of a drug-free environment in which to pursue the vital task of learning, a comparatively modest 43 percent say that being drug-free would make things at their school better, versus 56 percent who say the presence of drugs doesn't matter. But there is a process of inurement going on here: as teens age, they become accustomed to the presence of drugs around them. Their ability to obtain drugs increases, their apprehensions about the health effects of marijuana use decrease, and their willingness to report a drug dealer virtually collapses.

Of those teens who attend drug-prevalent schools but who have not succumbed to the plague, the cry for help is audible. If a teen is not at risk for use, according to our definition, half say making their school drug-free "would make things better," (versus 49% who say it would not make a difference). Those who are already acclimated to the drug scene say by two-to-one (67%-32%) that making their school drug-free would not make things better.

We have reported elsewhere that parents are not naive about their teen's situation. Seventy-one percent (71%) of all parents say they think their teen's school is <u>not</u> drug-free. The issue for parents is one of responsibility: a plurality of 44 percent say "society-at-large" is to blame for the schools not being drug-free. Thirty percent (30%) blame the students; parents who blame parents for the schools not being drug-free (14%) have the least at risk teens. Eleven percent blame either the school principal, the police, or teachers.

By contrast, a plurality of the teens we surveyed who attend schools which are not drug-free blame the students themselves (44%; society at-large is second at 35%), a finding which is consistent with what we found in our focus groups with high school students (in Hyannis, MA and Chicago, IL). If students are the source of the problem, then they must also be the solution: it became clear to us during our focus group research that the only way to create a truly drug-free school is by enrolling students in the vision and possibility of having a school without drugs.

While it's disappointing that less than half of students in drug-infested schools (43%) consider that making their schools drug-free would be a significant improvement, an overwhelming 84 percent would be willing to join other students in making a pledge not to smoke, drink, or use drugs at school. This might be a component of a larger program to create truly drug-free schools: one-by-one.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR A PARENT TO BE RESPONSIBLE

We have contended that the attitude a parent brings to the task of keeping his/her teens free of substance abuse is a critical factor in determining the teen's risk score. We have characterized the "proper" attitude as "assuming responsibility" for the teen's avoidance of substance abuse. What does this mean practically?

It means that parents say the parent or the teen is responsible for that teen starting to use alcohol (Q32; the response of 40%), cigarettes (Q33; the response of 41%), or illegal drugs (Q34, the response of 33%), rather than blaming this fate on the culture, our society, or friends of the teen.

It means parents reject the proposition they have little influence over a teen's decision regarding the use of cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs (Q35, the response of 59%).

It means the parent says parents and students are responsible for schools being drug-infested, rather than society at-large, the police, principals, or teachers (Q37, the response of 44%).

It means, in sum, that parents do not become resigned to the inevitability of drug use, but choice to fight for their teens. Teens of parents who exhibit all of these responsibility measures are at substantially less risk that other teens.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR PARENTS AND TEENS TO PERCEIVE MARIJUANA AS ANYTHING BUT BENIGN

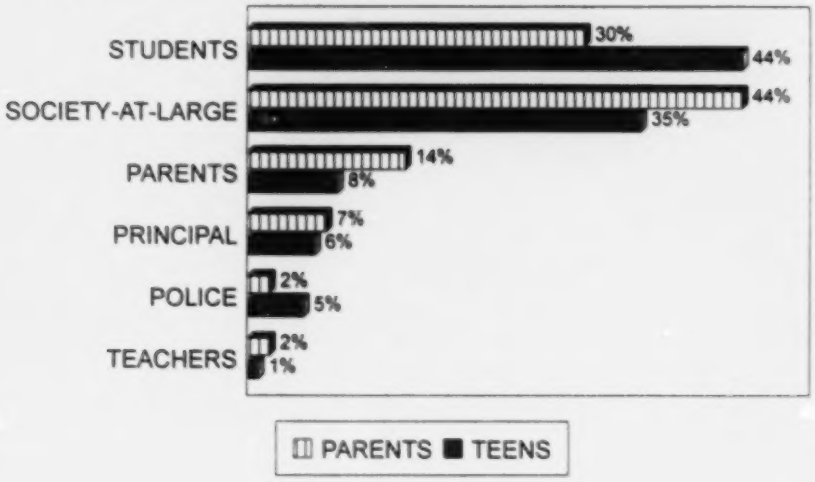
We have also asserted that the perception of marijuana as benign by either the parent or the teen leads to increased teen risk. When parents see marijuana as benign, they lack resolve; when teens see marijuana as benign – a perception which grows with age – they lack resistance. But how are these perceptions to be measured?

For parents, the measures are the perceived addictiveness of marijuana relative to cigarettes and alcohol (Q08), the perceived health risk of marijuana relative to these other substances (Q09), whether the parent has friends who use marijuana (Q16), perception of an adverse effect of marijuana on teenage sexual activity (Q18), the perception of teen marijuana use as a "crisis" (Q24), greater concern about marijuana use than drinking or cigarette smoking (Q25), and prior parental marijuana use (Q65).

For teens, rejection of the marijuana-is-benign thesis means marijuana is perceived as more addictive than either tobacco or alcohol (Q17), marijuana is perceived as more harmful (Q18), driving after smoking marijuana is perceived as unsafe (Q25), marijuana usage diminishes academic performance and makes getting into trouble more likely (Q27A & Q27B), marijuana usage makes teen sex more likely (Q29), and the legalization of marijuana is opposed (Q48).

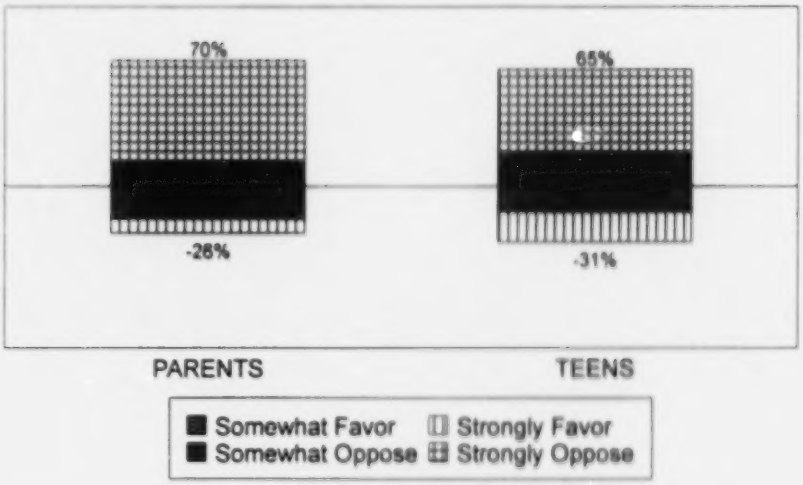
National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

Responsible for School Not Being "Drug-Free?"



National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
1996 CASA Survey of Public Opinion

Legalization of Marijuana



THE DATA ON TEENAGE SMOKING

The long legacy of government-mandated health warnings about cigarette smoking has succeeded in educating parents, at least, about the dangers of smoking. Both teens and their parents concur in the perception that cigarette smoking is more addictive than either alcohol or marijuana. But while parents also believe cigarette smoking poses the greatest health risk, teens say by 2-to-1 that marijuana is more harmful than cigarettes.

While 61 percent of teens claim they do not smoke and never have, that number understates the real incidence of smoking among teens. What makes one particularly suspicious of the number of teens claiming non-smoker status is the fact that 60 percent have friends who smoke. By the time teens reach the age of 17, 79 percent have friends who smoke, 45 percent say half or more of their friends smoke – although just 26 percent admit to smoking themselves.

While the actual percentage of teens who smoke is debatable, so too is the percentage of parents who smoke. Forty percent (40%) of teens report having at least one parent who currently smokes at least one cigarette a day. In contrast, only 27 percent of parents admit to smoking daily.

Of beer, cigarettes, and marijuana, most teens find cigarettes to be the most readily available, although as a teen ages, marijuana nearly equals cigarettes. A plurality of teens who smoke report that they get their smokes from vendors who do not check for ID. This is especially true for the older teens; younger teens are as likely to get their cigarettes by bumming or buying them from friends. Cigarettes are markedly more purchasable than alcohol; while our society has gotten serious about controlling the sale of alcohol to minors, teens tell a different story about cigarettes. Few older teens (who smoke) appear to rely on vending machines as their source of cigarettes.

As teens get older (and their likelihood of "looking 18" increases), the ease of buying cigarettes at stores probably increases (based on where teens say they get cigarettes). As the ease of buying increases, the incidence of smoking increases. The availability of cigarettes to teens is doubtless a contributing factor to the phenomenon of teen smoking. Tobacco is available to teens, so they are smoking.

THE DATA ON TEENAGE DRINKING

While there has been ample publicity given to the health risks of smoking, there are different, behavioral risks to drinking which are also broadly recognized – partially the result of the work of MADD, SADD and other such groups. Teens agree: buying alcohol is more difficult than buying cigarettes or marijuana (meaning restrictions on sales to minors are working); consuming alcohol impairs judgment; and abusing alcohol causes personal and academic problems. 80% of teens surveyed think that alcohol negatively affects scholastic performance and 81% believe it increases the likelihood of getting into trouble.

In addition to hurting grades, teens realize that alcohol can break down inhibitions and increase their chances of engaging in other risky behavior, like casual sex and driving under the influence. For example, 58% of teens believe drinking alcoholic beverages increases sexual activity, and a plurality of 30% say driving after even one drink is unsafe. Parents are even more fearful alcohol will cloud their teen's judgment, with a large majority (77%) believing that alcohol increases sexual activity.

Those who have fought the sale of alcohol to minors can claim a substantial victory. Merchant enforcement of the prohibition against sales of alcoholic beverages to minors under 21 is deterring teens from buying alcohol (though not perhaps from using it). Only 9% of teens report beer is easier to buy than either cigarettes or marijuana. Parents concur, with a mere 5% responding that beer is easiest for a teen to buy.

Although vendors significantly restrict the sale of alcohol to minors, teens still obtain and consume alcohol. While only 10% of parents think their children under 18 drink alcoholic beverages, 22% report they drink at least once a week, and 53% of teens report some of their friends drink.

As teens age, two things grow with them: the number of their friends affected by drinking problems and the number of teens who think that alcohol is harmful to one's health. Twenty-five percent of teens claim that they know someone who has a drinking problem. While only 9% of 12 year olds know someone with a drinking problem, 35% of 17 year olds report having a friend with drinking problems. Similarly, 11% of twelve year olds think that beer is more harmful than cigarettes or marijuana, rising to 27% of 17 year olds. While this change in viewpoint occurs as teens age, in part because they see more of their friends afflicted with drinking problems and become more aware of the perils associated with alcohol, the percent of weekly drinkers also rises with age, to 32% of 17 year olds.

This survey revealed an interesting disparity between parents and their kids. Parents claim to drink less than their children say they do. Only 2% of parents assert they drink more than two drinks a day, but teens state that 7% of their parents imbibe at least two drinks a day. Additionally, 34% of parents claim they never drink but only 27% of teens reported having parents who never drink.

One of the graver problems associated with teenage drinking is the link between teen drinking and drug abuse. Teens whose friends are regular drinkers have a higher risk score for substance abuse themselves than do other teens. Therefore, evidence of drinking alcohol should be taken by parents as a warning signal of other kinds of substance abuse.

THE DATA ON TEENS AND DRUGS

Every day, parents send their children into the world and hope they have instructed them well. They believe they have provided their children with the tools necessary to navigate through the maze of lures and temptations society presents. But parents don't view all these dangers equally: they have twice as much concern about their children smoking marijuana as they do about their children smoking tobacco or drinking alcohol. And when asked how they would react if they discovered their child smoked marijuana, 74 percent of parents would view this as a "crisis" (rather than part of growing-up) versus 50% who would view drinking as a crisis and 48% who would view smoking cigarettes as a crisis. The belief among parents that teen drug use represents an emergency situation may explain why 70% of parents oppose the legalization of marijuana.

Unfortunately, almost three quarters (72%) of parents feel drug use poses a problem in their own communities, and only four percent think teenage drug use is decreasing. Facts justify their concern: 35 percent of teenage customers find buying marijuana an easier task than purchasing beer or cigarettes and a third (31%) of youths questioned felt they could obtain marijuana within a few hours. As teens get older, marijuana becomes ever more available: 22 percent of twelve year olds find it easier to buy marijuana than cigarettes and beer, versus 43 percent of seventeen year olds.

In their own neighborhoods, one-fifth (19%) of the parents surveyed have witnessed the sale of illegal drugs, while more than one-fourth (26%) of their children have witnessed a drug trade. Sixteen percent (16%) of teens report having been pressured to use marijuana or another illegal drug and 37 percent have gotten offers to purchase or to share marijuana.

Thirty-one percent (31%) of the teenagers polled know a drug user. Nearly two-thirds of youths (61 percent) have no close friends who currently use marijuana, but as youths grow older, the percentage who know no marijuana users shrinks dramatically; 88 percent of 12 year olds do not know a marijuana user, but by age 17, only 38 percent of teens can make this claim. Similarly, the percentage whose friends *all* use marijuana rises from one percent, among 12 year olds, to ten percent, among 17 year olds. While this survey did not ask teens if they personally use drugs, much can be inferred from questions of this kind concerning proximity to marijuana.

Ten percent (10%) of twelve year olds and 58 percent of seventeen year olds have a friend or classmate who has used hard drugs like LSD, cocaine or heroin. The older the child, the greater the likelihood that he or she will know at least one person with a serious drug problem: 11 percent of twelve year olds versus 43 percent of seventeen year olds.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Ninety-two percent (92%) of parents and 87% of teens can name a household product which they say teens use to get high. The variety of both the parent and teen lists is extensive, yet familiar: aerosols, glue, air freshener, Wite-out, and so forth.

Teens say the incidence of "huffing" or use of inhalants among their peers is fairly rare: 13% describe "huffing" as either very or fairly widespread. Thirty-three percent (33%) say it is fairly rare, 50% believe "huffing" occurs very rarely among their classmates. While the incidence of the practice seems modest, this still represents a huge number of teens putting themselves at considerable risk, of brain damage and other health consequences.

"Huffing" is a particular challenge to parents. It is an extraordinarily self-destructive behavior, and controlling supply is not a practical option. There is no way out except for ending demand.

HOW THE CASA SURVEY RESULTS COMPARE WITH OTHER RECENTLY RELEASED STUDIES

On Smoking:

National Household Survey of Drug Attitudes "Have you ever used cigarettes?", 16-17 year olds	52%
Monitoring the Future Survey "Have you ever used cigarettes?", 12th graders	64%
CASA "How often do you smoke", 17 year olds current smoker + past smoker	54%

On Drinking:

NHSDA, "Have you used alcohol in the past month?" 16-17 year olds	34%
MTF, "Have you used ...", 12th graders	51%
CASA, "non-weekly drinkers + weekly drinkers"	57%

On Drug Abuse:

NHSDA, "Have you used any illicit drug in the past month," 16-17 year olds	16%
MTF, "Have you used ...", 12th graders	25%
CASA, "How likely is it you will use ..." 17 year olds	22%

SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

This survey of teenagers, 12-17, and their parents utilized a random digit dialing technique to construct a nationally representative sample of these target populations. The randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened, called initially to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there; subsequent calls were made to conduct the actual interviews.

We sought through numerous call-backs to maximize the number of two interview households (819 were obtained). The order of the interviews (parent-teen) were a matter of convenience. We examined an initial set of interviews looking for an interview order effect, but found none. In total, 1200 teen interviews were completed, as were 1166 parent interviews. The margin of sampling error associated with a 1200 sample is ±2.8%; for 1166, the margin of error is ±2.9%.

We imposed a quota on the parent sample for sex of the parent (men being normally harder to reach in a telephone survey than women). In addition to this gender quota, as in any survey of this kind there are certain demographic variables which are especially important to get right, in comparison with the national population characteristics.

Listed below are those demographic targets we were most concerned about meeting, along with the actual results of our sampling. In the end, we found sample performance to be excellent. Weighting was not applied in the youth sample. When interviewing was terminated on the parent survey, we found we had not obtained the full complement of fathers of teens (we had actually stopped interviewing women, having achieved our quota for mothers of teens; this was the only quota we imposed). Weighting was applied to bring the sex of parent distribution in line with the national population data (note 59% of parents with teens in the home are women, owing to the incidence of single mother households), while holding household type constant with the pre-weighted survey results.

ADULT SURVEY	ACTUAL POPULATION	SURVEY RESULTS
Sex (Parents, based on household structure)		
Male	41%	41%
Female	59%	59%
Ethnicity (all adults, 18+; parents not available)		
White, not Hispanic	76%	76%
Black, not Hispanic	11%	11%
Native-American	1%	2%
Asian-American	3%	2%
Hispanic	9%	6%
Education (all adults, 18+)		
Some high school or less	19%	8%
Completed high school	34%	27%
Vocational school or some college	24%	33%
College graduate	15%	20%
Post graduate	8%	12%

Income (for "family" households, children of any age)		
Under $15,000	16%	9%
$15,000 but less than $25,000	15%	13%
$25,000 but less than $35,000	15%	16%
$35,000 but less than $45,000	---	17%
$45,000 but less than $55,000	---	14%
$55,000 but less than $75,000	---	13%
subtotal , $35,000 - $74,999	38%	44%
$75,000 or more	16%	14%
Refused		4%

TEEN SURVEY	ACTUAL POPULATION	SURVEY RESULTS
Age		
12	17%	14%
13	17%	17%
14	17%	18%
15	16%	18%
16	16%	18%
17	16%	15%
Household Type (% of families with children under 18 – no distinction own child or step)		
Both parents	74%	78%
Mother only	22%	17%
Father only	4%	2%
Sex		
Male	51%	51%
Female	49%	49%
Ethnicity		
White, not Hispanic	68%	66%
Black, not Hispanic	15%	11%
Native-American	1%	1%
Asian-American	4%	2%
Hispanic	12%	12%

APPENDIX: RISK FACTORS WITH ASSOCIATED CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS

PARENTAL RISK FACTORS		
CATEGORY	QUESTION	ETA
Proximity	Does your Teen Smoke	.3137
Standards & Family	Time of Teen Curfew	.2824
Proximity	Approve of Teen's Friends	.2357
Proximity	Does your Teen Drink Alcohol	.2255
Standards & Family	Age of Parent	.2201
Proximity	Will your Teen Try Drugs	.2090
Standards & Family	Does Popular Music Encourage Drug Use (Responsibility)	.2056
Standards & Family	Dinners as Family Per Week	.1980
Standards & Family	How Often Attend Religious Service Per Month	.1969
Standards & Family	Does Teen Attend Religious Services with Parent	.1930
Standards & Family	Parent Used Marijuana and Teen Knows	.1873
Proximity	Does Parent Drink Alcohol	.1852
Drugs Benign	Composite Attitude of Parent toward Marijuana	.1849
Proximity	How Long Take Teen to Buy Marijuana	.1779
Standards & Family	Family Structure (Two/One Parent, etc)	.1676
Drugs Benign	Do Friends of Parent Smoke Marijuana	.1637

TEEN RISK FACTORS		
CATEGORY	QUESTION	ETA
Proximity	Friends are Marijuana Users*	.8142
Proximity	How Long Would it Take You to Buy Marijuana*	.7551
Proximity	Know Someone Who Sells Illegal Drugs*	.7252
Proximity	Know Friend who has Used Hard Drugs*	.7199
Proximity	Been Solicited to Share/Buy Marijuana	.6817
Proximity	Likelihood of Drug Use*	.6688
Drugs Benign	Composite Measure of Marijuana Risk	.6517
Proximity	Teen Currently Smokes*	.6341
Proximity	Friends are Regular Drinkers*	.6208
Proximity	Friends Smoke	.6183
Proximity	Teen Drinks	.6144
Drugs Benign	Would Report Drug User	.5264
Proximity	Witnessed Sale of Drugs	.5159
Drugs Benign	Would Report Drug Seller	.4909
Drugs Benign	Teen Thinks Parents Smoked Marijuana	.4842
Proximity	Easiest to buy	.4489
Standards & Family	Opinion of Teen Sex	.4404
Proximity	Age	.4355
Proximity	Friends have a Serious Drug Problem	.4260
Standards & Family	Curfew	.3888
Proximity	Attend Drug-Free School	.3885
Standards & Family	Main Reason Teens Use Drugs	.3745
Drugs Benign	Effect of Marijuana on Getting into Trouble	.3695
Drugs Benign	Effect of Alcohol on Grades	.3395
Drugs Benign	Number of Joints/Still Drive Safely	.3289
Standards & Family	Dinners as Family Per Week	.3287
Proximity	Know Someone with a Drinking Problem	.3276
Drugs Benign	Opinion of Legalization of Marijuana	.3126
Standards & Family	Grades in School	.3105
Standards & Family	Parent Knows What Teen Does on Weekends	.2974
Standards & Family	Church Attendance	.2932
Proximity	Felt Pressured to Use an Illegal Drug	.2900
Drugs Benign	Most Harmful Substance	.2771
Drugs Benign	Effect of Marijuana on Grades	.2675
Drugs Benign	Hardest Substance to Stop Using	.2438
Drugs Benign	Effect of Alcohol on Getting into Trouble	.2367

* These variables used to construct the risk score (hence, etas artificially inflated).

YOUTH SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Hello, my name is (_____) and I'm calling from the national public opinion research company. We are looking for teenagers between 12 and 17 years old and their parents to participate in a very important nationwide survey on the future of your youth.

Is there a youth between the ages of 12 and 17 living at your home?

[IF YES] MAY I SPEAK TO THAT PERSON
[IF NOT AVAILABLE] When would be a good time to call back?

[IF NO] Thank and terminate.

[IF YOUTH NOT AVAILABLE] Is one of the parents of that youth available to speak with me?

1. YES [CONTINUE WITH ADULT VERSION]
2. NO When would be a good time to call back?

[INTRO FOR TEENAGER INTERVIEW]

Hello, my name is (_____) and I'm a college student interviewing teenagers across the country about current events and about how it is to be a teenager in America today.

This is not a sales call; I am not going to ask you to buy or do anything. Your answers are completely confidential -- I just want to learn your opinions. This interview will take about 12-15 minutes, and there are no right or wrong answers to these questions.

(DO NOT PAUSE)

1. TELEPHONE NUMBER

2. SOURCE

   1. ORIGINAL CALL
   2. REDIAL OF PREVIOUS INTERVIEW

3. First, what is your age, please?

   14% 12
   17% 13
   18% 14
   18% 15
   18% 16
   15% 17

4. And are you in a place right now where you can have a private conversation, or are other people in the room with you?

68% PRIVATE
32% NOT PRIVATE

5. Gender

51% MALE
49% FEMALE

6. What kind of school do you attend: public, private but not religiously-affiliated, or religiously-affiliated?

88% PUBLIC
3% PRIVATE, NOT RELIGIOUSLY-AFFILIATED
8% PRIVATE & RELIGIOUSLY-AFFILIATED
1% DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED

7. What is the most important problem facing people your age -- that is, the thing which concerns you the most?

8% CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL
6% OTHER CRIME AND VIOLENCE
14% SOCIAL PRESSURES (POPULARITY AND "FITTING-IN")
2% JOBS/ OPPORTUNITY
2% GETTING ALONG WITH PARENTS/OTHER PROBLEMS AT HOME
31% DRUGS
7% SEXUAL ISSUES
5% DOING WELL IN SCHOOL
2% GETTING INTO COLLEGE
13% OTHER
11% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

8. Would you say right now you have specific goals for your future, in terms of career, or family, or lifestyle, when you finish school, or not?

76% HAS SPECIFIC GOALS
23% DOES NOT HAVE SPECIFIC GOALS
* QUESTION DOESN'T MAKE SENSE
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

9. After you finish school, do you think it will be easier or harder for you to achieve your goals than it was for your parents when they were just starting out, or will it be about the same?

40% EASIER
32% HARDER
27% ABOUT THE SAME
1% DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED

10. Is there something you do, an activity or a hobby or a sport, that you really care a lot about? What is that? [OPEN-ENDED PRECODED]

12% NONE
1% MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION (BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS)
1% RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES
18% HOBBY OR MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
57% SPORTS TEAM
4% ACADEMIC INTEREST
3% PROFESSIONAL INTEREST (4H, OTHER CAREER-ORIENTED ACTIVITY)
2% OTHER
1% DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED

11. On an average weekend, do you often get bored because you don't have enough to do, or not?

43% YES, OFTEN GET BORED
57% NO, DON'T OFTEN GET BORED
* DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED

Next, I would like to get your views about smoking cigarettes.

12. Thinking now about your own close circle of friends, how many of your friends smoke at least one cigarette a day:

40% NONE
35% LESS THAN HALF
17% MORE THAN HALF
8% ALL OF THEM
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

13. Do you currently smoke, meaning one or more cigarettes a day? Roughly how many cigarettes or packs a day do you smoke? Have you ever smoked?

1% LESS THAN ONE CIGARETTE PER DAY
4% 1- 5 CIGARETTES PER DAY
3% 1/2 PACK PER DAY
2% 1 PACK PER DAY
1% 1 1/2 PACKS PER DAY
* 2 OR MORE PACKS PER DAY
27% NOT CURRENT SMOKER, BUT SMOKED IN PAST
61% NOT CURRENT SMOKER, NEVER SMOKED
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

14. Do you think that smoking cigarettes helps you to control your weight, or not?

15% YES
81% NO
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

15. How do you get cigarettes: Do ...

27% FRIENDS BUY THEM FOR YOU;
20% YOU BUM THEM FROM FRIENDS;
2% YOU BUY THEM FROM VENDING MACHINES;
35% YOU BUY PACKS FROM A STORE WHICH DOESN'T ASK FOR ID;
1% YOU BUY SINGLES OR LOOSIES FROM A STORE WHICH DOESN'T ID;
11% YOU GET THEM FROM OLDER BROTHERS OR SISTERS
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE [DO NOT READ]

16. Which is easiest for someone your age to buy: cigarettes, beer, or marijuana?

51% CIGARETTES
9% BEER
35% MARIJUANA
6% THE SAME

17. And which is hardest to stop using: cigarettes, beer and alcoholic beverages, or marijuana?

41% CIGARETTES
16% BEER
34% MARIJUANA
4% THE SAME
6% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

18. And which is most harmful to one's health: cigarettes, beer and alcoholic beverages, or marijuana?

20% CIGARETTES
15% BEER
54% MARIJUANA
9% THE SAME [VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE ONLY]
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

19. Do either of your parents currently smoke at least one cigarette a day? Do both parents?

25% ONE PARENT A SMOKER
15% BOTH PARENTS SMOKERS
59% NEITHER PARENT SMOKES
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

Thank you for those answers. Next I want to ask you about alcohol, including beer, wine, wine coolers, and hard liquor.

20. Do you personally know someone -- a friend or a classmate -- who has a problem with drinking too much alcohol?

25% YES
75% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

21. Thinking now about your own close circle of friends, how many of them currently drink beer or other alcoholic drinks pretty regularly, like most weekends -- none, less than half, more than half, all of them?

46% NONE
35% LESS THAN HALF
13% MORE THAN HALF
5% ALL OF THEM
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

22. In a typical week, will either of your parents drink wine, beer, or another alcoholic beverage? In a typical day, will they have one, two or more than two drinks? Does either parent ever drink?

7% MORE THAN TWO DRINKS PER DAY
10% TWO DRINKS PER DAY
17% ONE DRINK PER DAY
14% WEEKLY DRINKER [LESS THAN ONE PER DAY]
25% NON-WEEKLY DRINKER [NO DRINKS TYPICAL WEEK, WILL DRINK]
27% NEVER DRINKS
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

23. In a typical week, will you drink beer, wine, or another alcoholic beverage? In a typical day, will you have one, two, or more than two drinks? Do you ever drink beer or other alcoholic beverages?

2%	MORE THAN TWO DRINKS PER DAY
1%	TWO DRINKS PER DAY
4%	ONE DRINK PER DAY
15%	WEEKLY DRINKER [LESS THAN ONE PER DAY]
17%	NON-WEEKLY DRINKER [NO DRINKS TYPICAL WEEK, WILL DRINK]
61%	NEVER DRINKS

24. How many drinks can someone have in an afternoon and still drive a car safely?

30%	NONE
25%	1
22%	2
10%	3
7%	4 OR MORE
3%	DEPENDS
4%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

25. How many marijuana joints can someone smoke in an afternoon and still drive a car safely?

52%	NONE
22%	1
9%	2
4%	3
4%	4 OR MORE
2%	AS MANY AS YOU WANT
2%	DEPENDS
7%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

26. [SPLIT SAMPLE] Does the regular use of beer, wine, or other alcoholic beverages affect how someone your age does in school: do grades usually improve, worsen, or do they not change? Do they improve/worsen a great deal or only somewhat?

1% IMPROVE A GREAT DEAL
1% IMPROVE SOMEWHAT
31% WORSEN SOMEWHAT
49% WORSEN A GREAT DEAL
15% DON'T CHANGE AT ALL
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

26. [SPLIT SAMPLE] Does the of use beer, wine, or other alcoholic beverages seem to affect how often someone your age gets into trouble: is it more likely or less likely that someone who drinks would get into trouble, or does it make no difference? Is that much [more/less] likely or somewhat [more/less] likely?

53% MUCH MORE LIKELY
28% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
2% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
1% MUCH LESS LIKELY
14% NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE [DO NOT READ]

27. [SPLIT SAMPLE] Does the regular use of marijuana seem to affect how someone your age does in school: do grades usually improve, worsen, or do they not change? Do they improve/worsen a great deal or only somewhat?

1% IMPROVE A GREAT DEAL
2% IMPROVE SOMEWHAT
27% WORSEN SOMEWHAT
52% WORSEN A GREAT DEAL
16% DON'T CHANGE AT ALL
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

27. [SPLIT SAMPLE] Does the use of marijuana seem to affect how often someone your age gets into trouble: is it more likely or less likely that someone who uses marijuana would get into trouble, or does it make no difference? Is that much [more/less] likely or somewhat [more/less] likely?

55% MUCH MORE LIKELY
24% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
3% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
3% MUCH LESS LIKELY
16% NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

28. Does drinking beer or other alcoholic beverages affect how sexually active someone your age is: is it more likely or less likely that someone who drinks will have sex, or does it not make a difference? Is that much [more/less] likely or somewhat [more/less] likely?

29% MUCH MORE LIKELY
29% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
4% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
2% MUCH LESS LIKELY
31% NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

29. Does using marijuana make it more likely or less likely that someone your age will have sex, or does it not make a difference? Is that much [more/less] likely or somewhat [more/less] likely?

23% MUCH MORE LIKELY
24% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
4% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
2% MUCH LESS LIKELY
44% NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

30. Thinking now about your own close circle of friends, how many of them currently use marijuana -- none, less than half, more than half, all of them?

61% NONE
26% LESS THAN HALF
9% MORE THAN HALF
5% ALL OF THEM
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

31. Do you personally know someone -- a friend or a classmate -- who has a serious problem with the use of illegal drugs? Do you have more than one?

19% YES, MORE THAN ONE
12% YES, JUST ONE
69% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

32. Have you ever personally witnessed the sale of illegal drugs in your own neighborhood, or not?

26% WITNESSED DRUGS BEING SOLD
74% HAVE NOT WITNESSED DRUGS BEING SOLD
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

33. Have you ever felt pressured by someone to use marijuana or another illegal drug? Was that person a boy or a girl?

12% YES, BOY
4% YES, GIRL
84% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

34. Have you ever felt pressured by someone to drink beer or another alcoholic beverage? Was that person a boy or a girl?

16% YES, BOY
6% YES, GIRL
78% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

35. Has anyone ever offered to sell or share marijuana with you? Was that person a boy or a girl?

29% YES, BOY
8% YES, GIRL
63% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

36. Can you name a household product which someone your age might use to get high? [OPEN-END]

37. Among your classmates and other kids your age, how widespread is inhaling or "huffing" household products to get high: is it ...

3% VERY WIDESPREAD
10% FAIRLY WIDESPREAD
33% FAIRLY RARE
50% VERY RARE
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

38. Do you know a friend or classmate who has used harder drugs like acid, cocaine, or heroin? Do you know this person fairly well, or not too well?

26% YES, KNOW SOMEONE FAIRLY WELL
13% YES, KNOW SOMEONE NOT WELL
61% NO
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

39. Generally speaking, do you feel your school is a safe place to be or not a safe place?

86% SAFE
13% NOT SAFE
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

40. Is your school a "drug free" school, or is it not "drug free," meaning some students keep drugs, use drugs, or sell drugs on school grounds?

42% SCHOOL IS DRUG-FREE
56% SCHOOL IS NOT DRUG FREE
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

41. Would making your school truly "drug-free" make things better at your school, or would it not make much of a difference?

43% WOULD MAKE IT BETTER
56% DOESN'T MATTER
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

42. Who is most responsible for the fact your school is not drug-free: the principal, the police, teachers, parents, students, or society at-large?

6% THE PRINCIPAL
5% THE POLICE
1% TEACHERS
8% PARENTS
44% STUDENTS
35% SOCIETY AT-LARGE
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

43. If a group of students at your school promised not to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs at school for the entire school year, would you be willing or not willing to join them in making that pledge?

84% WILLING
14% NOT WILLING
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

44. [SPLIT SAMPLE] If you personally saw a student [using/selling] illegal drugs at school, would you report the student to school officials, or not?

USING	SELLING	
46%	47%	WOULD REPORT THEM
51%	50%	WOULD NOT REPORT THEM
3%	3%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

45. I'm going to read to you some possible things someone your age may get out of using drugs. Please tell me which of the following you think is the **main** reason kids use drugs.

12% IT RELIEVES STRESS OR BOREDOM
29% THEY THINK THEY'RE COOL DOING DRUGS
23% THEY WANT TO DO WHAT THEIR FRIENDS DO
5% IT'S A WAY OF REBELLING AGAINST BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO
6% THEY HAVE SERIOUS PERSONAL PROBLEMS
4% THERE'S ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE IN THE FAMILY
20% IT MAKES THEM FEEL GOOD
* NOTHING AT ALL
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

46. Do you know anyone who sells illegal drugs?

29% YES
71% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

47. If you wanted to buy marijuana right now, how long would it take you: in a few hours, within a day, within a week, longer than a week, or would you be unable to buy it?

31% IN A FEW HOURS
14% WITHIN A DAY
13% WITHIN A WEEK
5% LONGER THAN A WEEK
32% WOULD BE UNABLE TO BUY IT
5% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

48. Do you favor or oppose the legalization of marijuana – meaning ending the laws against having and using marijuana? Is that ...

17% STRONGLY FAVOR
14% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
18% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
47% STRONGLY OPPOSE
5% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

Next, a few questions about movies, music, and TV.

49. How much do movies encourage people to smoke cigarettes: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all?

16% A GREAT DEAL
33% A FAIR AMOUNT
37% NOT VERY MUCH
13% NOT AT ALL
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

50. How much does the popular music you listen to and the music videos you watch encourage the use marijuana and other illegal drugs: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all?

16% A GREAT DEAL
29% A FAIR AMOUNT
36% NOT VERY MUCH
19% NOT AT ALL
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

Do you think American culture -- I mean, movies, music, TV, fashion -- glamorizes:

51. smoking cigarettes?

66% DOES
33% DOES NOT
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

52. drinking alcohol?

69% DOES
30% DOES NOT
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

53. using illegal drugs?

41% DOES
57% DOES NOT
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

54. women and girls being quite thin?

77% DOES
22% DOES NOT
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

55. What is the biggest reason people your age **do not** use illegal drugs:

27% THEY ARE AFRAID OF GETTING CAUGHT
11% DRUGS REDUCE PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL OR SPORTS
27% THEY ARE AFRAID OF BEING PERMANENTLY DAMAGED OR GETTING HOOKED
5% IT WOULD DISAPPOINT THEIR PARENTS OR TEACHERS
7% BECAUSE THEIR FRIENDS DON'T USE DRUGS
22% BECAUSE THEY THINK ITS MORALLY WRONG
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE [DO NOT READ]

56. Have you ever had a discussion with your parents about the risks of using illegal drugs? [IF NO] Would you like to have a discussion with your parents about illegal drugs?

61% YES
9% NO/WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE
30% NO/WOULD NOT LIKE TO HAVE ONE
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

57. Do you think either of your parents smoked marijuana when they were young? One or both?

16% YES, ONE
16% YES, BOTH
65% NO
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

58. If you asked them, would they tell you the truth about having used marijuana?

84% YES
14% NO
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

59. In a typical week, how many times do you and your parents have dinner together as a family?

9% 0
8% 1
10% 2
12% 3
11% 4
14% 5
8% 6
29% 7

60. Most of the time, do your parents know what you do on weekends, or not?

88% MOSTLY KNOW
12% MOSTLY DO NOT KNOW
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

61. Do you have a specific time you have to be in the house on weekend nights? What is that time?

35% NO CURFEW
26% 10:00 OR EARLIER
31% 10:30-12:00
6% AFTER MIDNIGHT
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

62. Do you live with both your natural parents, with one natural parent and one step parent, with just your mother, with just your father, or do you live with someone other than your parents?

63% TWO PARENT HOME, NO STEP
15% TWO PARENT HOME, STEP PARENT
17% ONE PARENT, MOTHER
2% ONE PARENT, FATHER
3% ONE PARENT, OTHER
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

63. Do your parents work? Do both your parents work, or just your father, or just your mother?

10% MOTHER WORKS
18% FATHER WORKS
68% BOTH WORK
3% NO: NEITHER WORK
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

64. When you get home from school, is there usually an adult at home? Who is that: a parent, a relative, another adult?

56% YES, A PARENT
7% YES, A RELATIVE
4% YES, SOMEONE ELSE
34% NO ONE AT HOME
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

65. How important is religion in your life: very important, fairly important, not too important, not important at all?

44% VERY IMPORTANT
34% FAIRLY IMPORTANT
15% NOT TOO IMPORTANT
6% NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL
* DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

66. In a typical month, how often do you attend church or religious services?

22% NONE
34% 1-3
28% WEEKLY
16% MORE THAN ONCE PER WEEK
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

67. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage: Hispanic or Latino-American (whether black or white), white but not Hispanic, African-American or Black but not Hispanic, Asian-American, Native-American, or Other?

12% HISPANIC OR LATINO-AMERICAN
66% WHITE BUT NOT HISPANIC
11% AFRICAN-AMERICAN NOT HISPANIC
2% ASIAN-AMERICAN
1% NATIVE-AMERICAN
7% OTHER
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

68. What kind of grades do you get in school: just stop me when I read the right category:

2% MOSTLY D's & F's
10% MOSTLY C's & D's
31% MOSTLY B's & C's
42% MOSTLY A's & B's
14% MOSTLY A's
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

69. What is the highest level of education either of your parents completed?

6% SOME HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS
30% COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL
16% VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OR SOME COLLEGE
37% COLLEGE GRADUATE
8% POST GRADUATE
3% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

70. Do you consider yourself to be overweight, underweight, or is your weight about where it should be?

14% OVERWEIGHT
10% UNDERWEIGHT
76% WEIGHT ABOUT WHERE IT SHOULD BE
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

71. What is your opinion of teens under the age of 18 having sex, by which I mean going all the way: is it pretty much okay for teens under 18 to have sex, or should teens wait until they are at least 18 or older before having sex?

25% OKAY TO HAVE SEX
73% WAIT UNTIL OLDER TO HAVE SEX
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

72. And, for my final question, how likely do you think it is that at some point in the future you will try an illegal drug: is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or will it absolutely never happen?

10% VERY LIKELY
12% SOMEWHAT LIKELY
27% NOT VERY LIKELY
51% NEVER HAPPEN
* DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

PARENT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Hello, my name is (_____) and I'm calling from the national public opinion research company. We are looking for teenagers between 12 and 17 years old and their parents to participate in a very important nationwide survey on the future of your youth.

Is there a youth between the ages of 12 and 17 living at your home?

[IF YES] MAY I SPEAK TO THAT PERSON? [CONTINUE WITH YOUTH SURVEY]
[IF NOT AVAILABLE] When would be a good time to call back? [RECORD CALLBACK TIME]

[IF NO] Thank and terminate.

[IF YOUTH NOT AVAILABLE] Is a parent of the teenager available to speak with me?

1. YES [CONTINUE WITH ADULT VERSION]
2. NO When would be a good time to call back?

[PARENTS' INTRO]

[REPEAT AS NECESSARY] Hello, my name is (_____) and I'm calling from the national public opinion research company. We are talking with parents of teenagers as part of an important nationwide survey on the future of your youth.

[ALL] This is not a sales call; we won't ask you to buy or do anything. This interview will take about 15 minutes, and your answers are completely confidential. And there are no right or wrong answers to these questions, we really just want to learn your opinions.

(DO NOT PAUSE)

1. TELEPHONE NUMBER

2. SOURCE

   1. ORIGINAL CALL
   2. REDIAL OF PREVIOUS INTERVIEW

3. GENDER [BY OBSERVATION]

   41% MALE
   59% FEMALE

4. Thinking of teenagers like your own, what is the most important problem facing people their age -- that is, the thing which concerns you the most?

5% CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL
4% OTHER CRIME AND VIOLENCE
20% SOCIAL PRESSURES (POPULARITY AND "FITTING-IN")
3% JOBS/ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
2% GETTING ALONG WITH PARENTS/OTHER PROBLEMS AT HOME
34% DRUGS
6% SEXUAL ISSUES
2% DOING WELL IN SCHOOL
2% GETTING INTO COLLEGE
4% THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION
5% DECLINING MORAL STANDARDS/IMMORALITY
11% OTHER
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

5. Do you currently smoke, meaning one or more cigarettes a day? Roughly how many cigarettes or packs a day do you smoke? Have you ever smoked?

1% LESS THAN ONE CIGARETTE PER DAY
3% 1- 5 CIGARETTES PER DAY
8% 1/2 PACK PER DAY
11% 1 PACK PER DAY
2% 1 1/2 PACKS PER DAY
2% 2 OR MORE PACKS PER DAY
31% NOT CURRENT SMOKER, BUT SMOKED IN PAST
41% NOT CURRENT SMOKER, NEVER SMOKED
*% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

6. So far as you know, do any of your children who are under 18 smoke at least one cigarette a day?

13% YES
86% NO
*% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

7. Which is easiest for a teenager under 18 to buy: cigarettes, beer, or marijuana?

51% CIGARETTES
5% BEER
38% MARIJUANA
7% THE SAME

8. And which is hardest to stop using: cigarettes, beer and alcoholic beverages, or marijuana?

59% CIGARETTES
15% BEER
14% MARIJUANA
8% THE SAME
5% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

9. And which is most harmful to one's health: cigarettes, beer and alcoholic beverages, or marijuana?

40% CIGARETTES
17% BEER
21% MARIJUANA
21% THE SAME
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

10. In a typical week, will you drink beer, wine, or another alcoholic beverage? In a typical day, will you have one, two, or more than two drinks? Do you ever drink beer or other alcoholic beverages?

2% MORE THAN TWO DRINKS PER DAY
5% TWO DRINKS PER DAY
10% ONE DRINK PER DAY
18% WEEKLY DRINKER
32% NON-WEEKLY DRINKER
34% NEVER DRINKS

11. So far as you know, do any of your children under 18 drink alcoholic beverages, including beer, on weekends?

10% YES
89% NO
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

12. Is the use of illegal drugs -- LSD, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana -- a problem you see in your own immediate community, or is it a problem in other places but not in your own your community?

72% DRUG USE A PROBLEM IN MY COMMUNITY
26% DRUG USE NOT A PROBLEM
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

13. Have you ever personally witnessed the sale of illegal drugs in your own immediate neighborhood, or not?

19% WITNESSED DRUGS BEING SOLD
81% HAVE NOT WITNESSED DRUGS BEING SOLD
*% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

14. Does it seem to you that use of illegal drugs like marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or LSD by teenagers in your community is increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

41% INCREASING
4% DECREASING
44% STAYING ABOUT THE SAME
11% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

15. Do you personally know someone -- a friend, neighbor, family member, someone at work -- who currently uses illegal drugs?

46% YES
53% NO
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

16. Thinking now about your own close circle of friends, how many of them do you think currently use marijuana -- none, less than half, more than half, all of them?

66% NONE
29% LESS THAN HALF
3% MORE THAN HALF
*% ALL OF THEM
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

17. Does drinking beer or other alcoholic beverages affect how sexually active a teenager is: is it more likely or less likely that someone who drinks will have sex, or does it not make a difference? Is that much likely or somewhat likely?

48% MUCH MORE LIKELY
29% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
1% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
1% MUCH LESS LIKELY
18% NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

18. Does using marijuana make it more likely or less likely that a teenager will have sex, or does it not make a difference? Is that much likely or somewhat likely?

33% MUCH MORE LIKELY
28% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
3% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
1% MUCH LESS LIKELY
23% NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
12% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

19. Which ONE of the following do you think is the **main** reason a teenager gets started using illegal drugs in the first place:

6% IT RELIEVES STRESS OR BOREDOM
10% THEY THINK THEY'RE COOL DOING DRUGS
68% THEY WANT TO DO WHAT THEIR FRIENDS DO
4% IT'S A WAY OF REBELLING AGAINST BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO
5% THEY HAVE SERIOUS PERSONAL PROBLEMS
6% THERE'S ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE IN THE FAMILY
1% NOTHING AT ALL
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

20. What is the biggest reason people teenagers **do not** use illegal drugs:

13% THEY ARE AFRAID OF GETTING CAUGHT
6% DRUGS REDUCE PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL OR SPORTS
14% THEY ARE AFRAID OF BEING PERMANENTLY DAMAGED OR GETTING HOOKED
14% IT WOULD DISAPPOINT THEIR PARENTS OR TEACHERS
19% BECAUSE THEIR FRIENDS DON'T USE DRUGS
28% BECAUSE THEY THINK ITS MORALLY WRONG
2% IT MAKES THEN FEEL GOOD
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

21. Do you favor or oppose the legalization of marijuana – meaning ending the laws against having and using marijuana? Is that ...

8% STRONGLY FAVOR
18% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
13% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
57% STRONGLY OPPOSE
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

22. Suppose you found out a child of yours under 16 was drinking alcohol. Do you think you would be more likely to see this as a crisis, or as simply a part of growing-up?

50% CRISIS
40% PART OF GROWING-UP
9% DEPENDS
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

23. Suppose you found out your child under 16 smoked cigarettes. Do you think you would be more likely to see this as a crisis, or as simply a part of growing-up?

48% CRISIS
48% PART OF GROWING-UP
4% DEPENDS
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

24. Suppose you found out your child under 16 smoked marijuana. Do you think you would be more likely to see this as a crisis, or as simply a part of growing-up?

74% CRISIS
22% PART OF GROWING-UP
3% DEPENDS
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

25. As a parent, do you think you would be more concerned to learn that your teenager was smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol, or using marijuana?

11% SMOKED CIGARETTES
18% DRINKING ALCOHOL
63% USING MARIJUANA
1% DEPENDS ON QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA
7% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

26. How much do movies promote cigarette smoking: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all?

27% A GREAT DEAL
32% A FAIR AMOUNT
30% NOT VERY MUCH
9% NOT AT ALL
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

27. How much does the popular music your teenager listens to and the music videos he or she watches promote the use marijuana and other illegal drugs: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all?

20% A GREAT DEAL
33% A FAIR AMOUNT
28% NOT VERY MUCH
14% NOT AT ALL
5% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

28. Do you think American culture -- I mean, movies, music, TV, fashion -- glamorizes smoking cigarettes?

65% DOES
33% DOES NOT
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

29. Do you think American culture glamorizes drinking alcohol?

84% DOES
15% DOES NOT
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

30. Do you think American culture glamorizes the use of illegal drugs?

53% DOES
46% DOES NOT
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

31. Do you think American culture glamorizes women and girls being quite thin?

92% DOES
7% DOES NOT
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

32. Who is most responsible for a teen starting to use alcohol:

21% THE CHILD HIMSELF OR HERSELF
19% THE CHILD'S PARENTS
33% FRIENDS OF THE CHILD
17% OUR POPULAR CULTURE OR SOCIETY AT-LARGE
9% ADVERTISING BY THE ALCOHOL INDUSTRY
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

33. Who is most responsible for a teen starting to use cigarettes:

22% THE CHILD HIMSELF OR HERSELF
19% THE CHILD'S PARENTS
40% FRIENDS OF THE CHILD
9% OUR CULTURE OR SOCIETY
9% ADVERTISING BY THE CIGARETTE INDUSTRY
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

34. Who is most responsible for a teen starting to use illegal drugs:

22% THE CHILD HIMSELF OR HERSELF
11% THE CHILD'S PARENTS
51% FRIENDS OF THE CHILD
15% OUR CULTURE OR SOCIETY
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

35. Some parents tell me that once a child becomes a teenager, parents have very little influence over their decisions on things like whether they will smoke, drink, or try illegal drugs. Do you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with this opinion?

13% AGREE STRONGLY
27% AGREE SOMEWHAT
24% DISAGREE SOMEWHAT
35% DISAGREE STRONGLY
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

36. To the best of your knowledge, is your teen's school a "drug free" school, or is it not "drug free," meaning some students keep drugs, use drugs, or sell drugs on school grounds?

27% SCHOOL IS DRUG-FREE
71% SCHOOL IS NOT DRUG FREE
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

37. Who is most responsible for the fact your school is not drug-free: the principal, the police, teachers, parents, students, or society at-large?

7% THE PRINCIPAL
2% THE POLICE
2% TEACHERS
14% PARENTS
30% STUDENTS
44% SOCIETY AT-LARGE
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

38. How well does your teenager's school teach the students about the dangers of illegal drugs?

41% VERY WELL
40% FAIRLY WELL
10% FAIRLY POORLY
5% VERY POORLY
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

39. Part of a parent's job is to teach their kids the difference between right and wrong. Overall, do you think the schools your children attend help you do this job, or do your children's schools make it harder to do this job?

70% HELP DO THIS JOB
24% MAKE JOB HARDER
4% NO IMPACT
2% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

40. Can you name a household product which teenagers might use to get high?

41. Have you ever had a serious discussion with your children about the risks of smoking and drinking?

93% YES
7% NO

42. Have you ever had a serious discussion with your children about the risks of illegal drug use?
94% YES
6% NO

43. Did you have that discussion because your child had reached a certain age, or because you thought **your child** may have experimented with drugs?

71% REACHED A CERTAIN AGE
5% MAY HAVE EXPERIMENTED
24% SOME OTHER REASON
*% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

44. Do you feel this discussion had a real impact on your child's thinking about the use of illegal drugs?

89% YES, HAD REAL IMPACT
11% NO, DID NOT HAVE IMPACT

45. If you suspected your child was abusing alcohol or using illegal drugs, would you seek help from outside your family? Who would you turn to: a doctor or other health care professional, a school official or counselor, a clergy member, a treatment specialist, or someone else?

27% A DOCTOR OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL
15% A SCHOOL OFFICIAL OR COUNSELOR
15% A CLERGY MEMBER
24% A TREATMENT SPECIALIST
4% SOMEONE ELSE
2% DON'T KNOW TO WHOM TO TURN
13% WOULD NOT SEEK OUTSIDE HELP
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

46. If your teenager wanted to buy marijuana, how long would it take him or her to get some: a few hours, within a day, within a week, longer than a week, or would they be unable to buy it?

44% A FEW HOURS
24% WITHIN A DAY
15% WITHIN A WEEK
2% LONGER THAN A WEEK
6% WOULD BE UNABLE TO BUY IT
8% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

Just a few questions for statistical purposes.

47. Are you single or married? Have you ever been married? Were you ever previously married to someone else?

4% SINGLE, NEVER BEEN MARRIED
22% SINGLE PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
58% MARRIED
16% MARRIED, PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
*% NO RESPONSE

48. Is your teenager your own child, or a step child?

94% OWN CHILD
5% STEP CHILD
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

49. Does your teenager live with you?

98% YES
2% NO
*% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

50. How many other children do you have?

9%	0
38%	1
30%	2
13%	3
9%	4+

51. Does your teenager live with both natural parents, with one natural parent and one step parent, with just their mother, with just their father, or do they live with someone other than their parents?

60%	TWO PARENT HOME, NO STEP
13%	TWO PARENT HOME, STEP PARENT
22%	ONE PARENT, MOTHER
4%	ONE PARENT, FATHER
2%	OTHER THAN A PARENT

52. In a typical week, how many times do you have dinner together as a family?

2%	0
6%	1
8%	2
13%	3
14%	4
21%	5
9%	6
28%	7

53. Most of the time, do you know what your teenager does on the weekends, or not?

96%	MOSTLY KNOW
4%	MOSTLY DO NOT KNOW
*%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

54. In general, do strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the friends your teenager hangs out with?

52%	STRONGLY APPROVE
33%	SOMEWHAT APPROVE
10%	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
3%	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE
1%	DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

55. Does your teenager have a specific time they have to be back in the house on weekend nights? What is that time?

13% NO CURFEW
34% 10:00 OR EARLIER
45% 10:30-12:00
5% AFTER MIDNIGHT
3% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

56. What is your employment situation: are you ...

68% EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OUTSIDE OF HOME
10% EMPLOYED PART-TIME OUTSIDE OF HOME
12% WORK AT HOME, TAKING CARE OF FAMILY OR SELF
3% RETIRED
2% STUDENT
5% UNEMPLOYED & LOOKING FOR WORK
*% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

57. How important is religion in your life: very important, fairly important, not too important, not important at all?

59% VERY IMPORTANT
28% FAIRLY IMPORTANT
8% NOT TOO IMPORTANT
4% NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

58. In a typical month, how often do you attend church or religious services?

27% NONE
28% 1-3
23% WEEKLY
22% MORE THAN ONCE PER WEEK

59. Does your teenager usually go to church or religious services with you?

73% YES
27% NO
*% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

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60. Which of the following best describes your religious preference:

28% BORN-AGAIN, EVANGELICAL, OR FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN
27% TRADITIONAL PROTESTANT
21% CATHOLIC
2% JEWISH
19% OTHER
3% NONE
*% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

61. What is your age please?

15% UNDER 35
52% 35-44
32% 45+

62. What is the highest level of education you completed?

8% SOME HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS
27% COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL
33% VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OR SOME COLLEGE
20% COLLEGE GRADUATE
12% POST GRADUATE
*% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

63. What do you consider to be your main racial or ethnic heritage: Hispanic or Latino-American, White but not Hispanic, African-American or black and not Hispanic, Asian-American, Native American, or Other?

6% HISPANIC OR LATINO-AMERICAN
76% WHITE BUT NOT HISPANIC
11% AFRICAN-AMERICAN BUT NOT HISPANIC
2% ASIAN-AMERICAN
2% NATIVE AMERICAN
4% OTHER
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

64. Can you please tell me what your family's annual income is? Just stop me when I read the correct category...

9% UNDER $15,000
13% $15,000 BUT LESS THAN $25,000
16% $25,000 BUT LESS THAN $35,000
17% $35,000 BUT LESS THAN $45,000
14% $45,000 BUT LESS THAN $55,000
13% $55,000 BUT LESS THAN $75,000
14% $75,000 OR MORE
5% REFUSED

65. When we were growing up in the 60's and 70's, it was pretty common for college and high school students to try marijuana and other drugs. When you were that age, did you try marijuana? Was there a time when you used marijuana fairly regularly?

21% YES, USED FAIRLY REGULARLY
28% TRIED, NOT USED REGULARLY
51% NO
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

66. If you and your child were talking about drugs and your child asked, would you tell them you had tried drugs?

92% YES
7% NO
1% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE

67. If you had to guess, do you think your teenager will ever try use illegal drugs?

46% YES
50% NO
4% DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE